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Radio Broadcast - Shopping Hours

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SEA Broadcast - BY THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN.

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O.O. Thoms - Opening and held under for

ANN: This is a broadcast by the Premier of South Australia, Mr. Don Dunstan, on behalf of the Australian Labor Party.

GOOD EVENING:

AS YOU ALL KNOW, THERE IS TO BE A REFERENDUM ON THIS COMING SATURDAY AND THE ISSUE IS ONE WHICH WILL SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT THE LIVES OF THE MAJORITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIANS. THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES LEGISLATION TO REVISE THE PRESENT SHOPPING HOURS LAWS AND THE ISSUE OF THIS REFERENDUM IS WHETHER OR NOT YOU WANT FRIDAY NIGHT SHOPPING - NOTHING MORE AND NOTHING LESS.

PEOPLE WITHIN THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA WHICH EXTENDS FROM GAWLER TO GILLUNGA ARE DIRECTLY CONCERNED IN THIS MATTER.

THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVED THEREFORE, THAT THE MOST RESPONSIBLE COURSE WAS TO HOLD A REFERENDUM IN WHICH THE ISSUE COULD BE DECIDED DEMOCRATICALLY BY ^{all} THE ELECTORS INVOLVED, ^{therefore voting is compulsory}

YOU ARE BEING GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO DECIDE WHETHER YOU WANT FRIDAY NIGHT SHOPPING IN ADDITION TO THE PRESENT SHOPPING HOURS.

IF A MAJORITY OF PEOPLE IN THE AREA CONCERNED VOTE FOR THIS CHANGE, IT WILL MEAN THAT PEOPLE WILL SHOP ^{from 6.30 p.m. to} MONDAYS TO THURSDAYS, 9 A.M. TO 9 P.M. FRIDAYS AND 8.35 A.M. TO 11.30 A.M. SATURDAYS.

THE FACT IS THAT PRESENT SHOPPING HOURS WILL NOT BE AFFECTED IN ANY WAY BY THE INTRODUCTION OF SHOPPING ON FRIDAY NIGHTS.

THE QUESTION TO BE PUT TO THE PEOPLE IS SIMPLE AND STRAIGHTFORWARD. IT IS: 'ARE YOU IN FAVOUR OF SHOPS IN THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF GAWLER BEING PERMITTED TO REMAIN OPEN FOR TRADING UNTIL 9 P.M. ON FRIDAYS?'

AS YOU CAN SEE, THIS IS AN UNCOMPLICATED QUESTION. IT HAS NO HIDDEN IMPLICATIONS, NO HIDDEN INNUENDO.

IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT A 'YES' VOTE IN SATURDAY'S REFERENDUM MAY LEAD "AT SOME STAGE IN THE FUTURE" TO THE ABOLITION OR CURTAILMENT OF SATURDAY MORNING TRADING. THIS IS COMPLETELY UNJUSTIFIED AND IN FACT, NONSENSE. IT CANNOT BE BACKED UP BY ANY FACTS AT ALL.

THE FACT IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTENTION WHATSOEVER OF INTERFERING WITH SATURDAY MORNING SHOPPING. IT IS VITAL THAT THIS POINT BE MADE CLEAR, AS CONFUSION AND DOUBT HAVE BEEN DELIBERATELY CREATED BY THOSE CAMPAIGNING FOR A 'NO' VOTE.

AGAIN, THERE IS CONFUSION ABOUT THE EFFECT OF FRIDAY NIGHT TRADING ON EXISTING PROVISIONS FOR AFTER HOURS TRADE. A 'YES' VOTE IN THIS REFERENDUM WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON THESE PROVISIONS. SHOPS WHICH CAN NOW LEGALLY OPEN AFTER HOURS WILL STILL BE ABLE TO DO SO, AND GOODS WHICH CAN NOW BE SOLD AFTER HOURS WILL CONTINUE TO BE SOLD. IN FACT, THE NUMBER OF EVENING GOODS IS SHORTLY TO BE RADICALLY INCREASED, SO THAT MORE USEFUL HOUSEHOLD GOODS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE.

THE PRESENT TRADING HOURS FOR CHEMISTS AND BUTCHERS' SHOPS, DELICATESSENS AND NEWSAGENTS AND FOR THE SALE OF PETROL, WILL NOT BE AFFECTED AT ALL BY A 'YES' VOTE. ALL OF THESE BUSINESSES WILL RETAIN THEIR PRESENT HOURS OF TRADING. THE EXTENSION OF SHOPPING HOURS TO 9 P.M. ON FRIDAY EVENINGS WILL MEAN MERELY THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SHOP ON A MUCH WIDER SCALE THAN YOU CAN NOW. AND YOU WILL HAVE EXTRA TIME TO SHOP FOR HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES, FURNITURE, CLOTHING AND GOODS. AT THE MOMENT, THESE ARE NOT AVAILABLE AFTER 5.30 P.M.

I BELIEVE YOU WILL AGREE THAT ALL THESE PLANS ARE ENTIRELY REASONABLE ONE'S. THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO REGULARISE TRADING HOURS FOR THE PEOPLE'S CONVENIENCE. IT DOES NOT WANT TO RESTRICT SHOPPING TIME IN ANY WAY - FOR IT IS OUR CONTENTION THAT SHOPPING HOURS, WORKING HOURS AND COMMERCIAL CONDITIONS AND THE CONVENIENCE OF PEOPLE AND FAMILIES IN GENERAL SHOULD REFLECT THIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN FOR PEOPLE AT LARGE. ^{& people & shops as well} THESE ARE MATTERS UPON WHICH IT BELIEVES VOTERS INTERESTED SHOULD NOT HAVE THE LAST SAY.

GOOD NIGHT.