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Title:
Statement - Premier's Department

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When the Labor Government took office, Mr. Walsh set up a Premier's Department which would be responsible for industrial development and obtained the services of a number of valuable officers. Already the work of this Department has shown excellent results, but we have conducted investigations into the Development Departments existing in other States in Australia and all of these are very much more generously staffed than our own. They were created during the period of the Liberal Government in South Australia which had no Development Department. It is quite obvious that there is now a race on to obtain investment which will improve the technological facilities of any State and that South Australia needs to be out in front in this race.

In the past two years, numbers of people have raised the possibility of appointing as Head of the new Department, a Director of Industrial Development who has a personal background of knowledge in Science and Technology, and who has administrative experience in expanding industry. The Australian Workers Union, Mr. Coumbe (Member for Torrens) and Mr. Casey (Member for Frome) have all raised this proposal. When I took office, I immediately had investigations made to see how we should proceed to expand the Premier's Department, and you will remember that I said this was one of our first priorities. In the past month, I have had numbers of discussions on this score and had come to a decision that we must appoint immediately a Director of Industrial Development with the requisite qualifications. While I was discussing possible appointees for this post, the Leader of the Opposition stated publicly that he believes also that this course should be followed and newspapers have in editorials supported it. There is therefore quite clearly widespread public support for the course which Cabinet has today decided it will take.

I am delighted to announce that Mr. Donald Currie, M.Sc. has agreed to join the Department as Director of Industrial Development.