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**Title:**

Don Dunstan Reports Legislative Council Rejects Fair Insurance Deal (Norwood-Burnside News Review)

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REJECTS FAIR INSURANCE DEAL.

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Last week in Parliament the Legislative Council threw out the Government's Bill to establish a State Government Insurance Office.

This was merely the latest of a number of actions by the Legislative Council to deny to the ordinary citizens of South Australia long overdue benefits enjoyed by citizens in other States.

Since the present Government was elected to office in 1965 with 58% of the total vote throughout the State, the Legislative Council has:-

- . thrown out the Government's proposals for electoral reform designed to end the rigging of electoral boundaries - the main policy on which we were elected in 1965.
- . refused to pass the Restrictive Trade Practices legislation asked for by their fellow Liberals in Canberra and designed to promote fair trading.
- . rejected proposals (for which the Government had a mandate) to lift the burden of succession duties of the ordinary widow and place it on the wealthy.
- . thrown out the Family Inheritance Bill which had been recommended unanimously by the Judges and supported by the Law Society.
- . attempted to block the Government's legislation for proper Town Planning in South Australia until public opinion forced them into accepting it.
- . delayed the granting of land rights to Australia's indigenous people - the Aborigines.

- Continually denied the Government its financial measures and then accused it of financial mismanagement.

The above are just some examples of the arbitrary and irresponsible actions of the Legislative Council supported by their Liberal colleagues in the House of Assembly during the last two and a half years.

When the Insurance Bill came before them the Legislative Councillors wanted to put the Government in the impossible position of establishing a Government Insurance Office to handle only Motor Vehicle and Workmen's Compensation Insurance - the two least profitable forms of insurance and not wanted by their friends in private insurance companies.

Despite the fact that we offered to compromise by foregoing the handling of Life Assurance, the Council rejected the Bill and so South Australians must continue to be penalized by not having the competitive service of a Government Insurance Office to ensure that premiums and conditions of insurance are fair.

What is this Legislative Council? It is the most powerful Upper House anywhere in the world - much more powerful than the House of Lords in England - elected on a franchise which is so restricted that although the Labor Government was elected by 58% of the people at the last election, Labor could get only four seats in the Legislative Council as against sixteen won by the L.C.L. even though that Party received little over 30% of the vote at the 1965 election.

If the Legislative Council ever was a "House of Review" it has long since ceased to be that and has become an intolerable obstacle thwarting the will of the people and representing the minority interests of the very wealthy.

The people must judge whether they want democratic Government or irresponsible control by the Legislative Council at the elections due next year.

Next week I shall be telling you some good news about the Eastern Suburbs Drainage Scheme.