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**Title:**

News release - Strong Senate Vital to South Australia

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NEWS RELEASE ON THE SPEECH OF THE PREMIER, THE HON. DON DUNSTAN,  
Q.C., M.P., AT A PUBLIC MEETING AT MILLICENT, FRIDAY,  
3RD NOVEMBER, 1967.

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STRONG SENATE VITAL TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The Premier, Mr. Dunstan, said tonight that it was absolutely essential to South Australia's interests that this State was represented by the strongest possible Senate team in Canberra.

Mr. Dunstan was addressing a public meeting at Millicent with Senator R. Bishop, in support of the A.L.P.'s team in the forthcoming Senate elections.

Mr. Dunstan said that he never ceased to be amazed by the cynical approach of the Holt Government towards South Australia's problems.

"It appears that Mr. Holt can see no political advantage for himself in South Australia", Mr. Dunstan said. "He has obviously conceded that he will suffer defeat in this State at the Senate elections, and is concentrating Commonwealth funds in those States where he hopes to buy enough votes to win."

Mr. Dunstan said that he found it incredible that on the eve of a Senate election, Mr. Holt was able to grant \$48 million for the second stage of the Ord River Project when only a year ago he found all sorts of compelling economic and other reasons for withholding further funds from the project. He said that \$20 million had also been given to Queensland's Emerald irrigation scheme despite the fact that soil testing had not been completed and final costs not determined.

"These generous gifts have been made to Western Australia and Queensland on the eve of the Senate election after consultation with the Premiers of those States only, despite the fact that an undertaking was given by the Prime Minister at the last Premier's Conference that no special grants beyond the Loan Works Programme would be made without the concurrence of all

Premiers on necessary priorities.

"However, Mr. Holt consistently refuses to give any assistance to South Australia in facing its problems. Despite the depressed state of our building industry recently, the Commonwealth Government refused to proceed with planned Commonwealth works projects in this State. Furthermore, the response from the Commonwealth to my repeated requests that our water supplies be guaranteed in view of the doubts cast on the Chowilla Dam Project, has been far from satisfactory.

"This latest act of political cynicism and blatant electioneering without regard to the needs of the various States on the part of the Prime Minister is yet another example of the need for a complete overhaul of Federal-State relations."

Mr. Dunstan said that until such an overhaul could take place, it was essential that South Australia sent to Canberra as its representatives in the Senate, people who would fight to ensure that this State's rights were protected and that we received a just allocation of Commonwealth monies.

Speaking of the vast social, educational, health, welfare, industrial and legal reforms achieved in South Australia since the A.L.P. came to office in March, 1965, Mr. Dunstan said that more had been achieved in South Australia during the past two and a half years than had been the product of any single State Government anywhere in Australia. However, there was much remaining to be done. Many long-needed reforms could not be effected until Labor won Government in Canberra.

"In the meantime, a responsible A.L.P. majority in the Senate would be of great assistance to us in further advancing the interests of the people of South Australia", Mr. Dunstan said.

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