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Press release - Taxes

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The deal which South Australia has received from the Commonwealth on this occasion is an extremely shabby one. South Australia's case for an increase in Commonwealth assistance to bring us into line with the revenues available to other States for spending on social services to the level undertaken by South Australia under the Labor Government was unanswerable. The Commonwealth has not answered it. It has merely dismissed it. But the disastrous thing to come out of this exercise is Mr. Hall's forecast of a wages and salaries' tax and impliedly a turnover tax on business. I endeavoured to get Mr. Hall to make clear before the State elections which taxes he proposed, but he refused to say anything. It is obvious he has kidded the electors by his attacks upon the Labor Party's very modest tax increases in the last three years that he did not propose to increase taxes. A wage and salaries' tax taking money out of each wage and salary pay packet per week and a turnover tax on other business-men's turnover are regressive taxes, hitting the employees and small business men of the community hard.

Mr. Hall prefers this to bringing us into line with the other States in the enforcement of receipt duty tax and requiring the wealthier people of the community to pay death duties at the same level as their counterparts do everywhere else in Australia. In other words, this proposal is one to soak the poor. Taxes of the kind now suggested by Mr. Hall were those I forecast he would resort to at the time of the State Election. It will be an evil day for South Australia if they are instituted here and cannot but dampen down business and employment in this State.