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Title:

Statement - LCL Bill for 47 members

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STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, HON. DON DUNSTAN, Q.C., M.P.
6.8.68.

Mr. Dunstan said today that the Labor Party thinks the L.C.L. Bill to provide for 47 members is a reasonable compromise step. Mr. Dunstan said: "But our principle is that there should be effective equality in voting power for all the citizens of the State."

"To give adequate representation to country areas would need a bigger House than 47, so we are prepared to compromise at 47 and give some weighting to country areas in order to ensure that they get adequate service."

"But at the same time", Mr. Dunstan said, "we feel that there should not be so far a departure from the principle of one vote one value, and that there is a great disproportion."

"In the Eastern States, the excess on average is about 30% between metropolitan and non-metropolitan seats."

Mr. Dunstan said: "To provide for a differentiation of 60% and up to 100% is far too great a departure from basic principles of democracy."

"We are prepared to support the Bill to the second reading, as I think it is a good basis for discussion."
