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*** "THE DAY WE CELEBRATE" ***

Leader of the Opposition

Message from the ~~Premier of South Australia,~~
The Hon. Don Dunstan, Q.C., M.P.
for Labor Day, 1968.

In years to come when historians put pen to paper, the year 1968 will be of special significance and will, I anticipate, confound the critics. Its main significance will be that it saw the defeat (but not by a majority of electors) of the first Labor Government this State enjoyed for over 35 years. Historians will record that the State Labor Government, having contested every seat in the State, received the popular vote of 53% of the electors but were forced to resign because they only had 19 members in a House of 39. The L.C.L., on the other hand, who had received only 43% of the popular vote, also had 19 members elected but they had been able to gain the support of the 1 Independent thereby giving them 20 votes in the House.

The 1968 election thus saw the end of the State Labor Government who had legislated to provide service pay for daily paid Government employees, streamlined the State Industrial Commission, and the Apprentices Commission, provided Workmen's Compensation coverage to and from work, provided equal pay for work of equal value - just to mention a few of the more outstanding industrial achievements.

Although we were forced to resign as a Government, there is a great deal of satisfaction from the fact that we were the popular choice of 53% of the people. The point most noteworthy and ^{GRATIFYING} praiseworthy was the support extended to me and my Party by the Trade Union Movement. During the three years we occupied the Treasury Benches, we could always count on the support, and understanding and tolerance, of all officials and members, and this kindly attitude continued during the election campaign and since. I have no doubt that many people who voted against us last March would, if given a second chance, reverse their vote particularly ^{SINCE} ^{ANNOUNCEMENT} after the release of the L.C.L. State Budget.

IMPOSING
than did any Liberal governed State in that time

The present Government attacked the Labor Party for less ~~than~~ per head increase in State taxation in three years and at the State elections refused to say what their financial measures would be, although they had full information about ~~the~~ ~~state~~ of State finances. They have ^f now imposed State taxes and charges which will mean nearly 20% increase per head in one year and they have done this at a time when South Australia in fact needs a boost to its economy to assist the recovery of business and industry. In addition, they have used \$6M. of borrowed money to pay into the Deposit Accounts - the Working Accounts of

the Treasury which are buoyant at the moment and do not need that money, so that is \$6M. less that is available for State development. The specific proposals will mean that every item one purchases will be dearer, that credit purchase sales which are not hire purchase agreements will cost more, that liquor will be more expensive, that every owner of a car will pay extra, that anybody needing State hospital treatment will pay more, and anybody seeking assistance from the State Bank will find that there is substantially less money for industry and housing loans. This is the most repressive series of financial measures this State has seen since the Premiers Plan of the 1930's. It prevents or at least dampens down any recovery of business and investment, and it interferes with the comparative cost structure of South Australia as compared with the other States.
