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Press release - Stamp Duty, November 1967

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PRESS RELEASE BY THE LEADER OF THE
OPPOSITION, DON DUNSTAN, Q.C., M.P.

STAMP DUTY..... NOVEMBER, 1968.

Everyone in South Australia should realise the effects of the Treasurer's proposals for Stamp Duty, because everybody's weekly purchases are going to be affected," the Leader of the Opposition, Don Dunstan, said this week.

He said: "Every business will have to pay one cent in ten dollars of its turnover, which is in itself something which will be passed on to the consumer and so will increase the price of goods when the wage-earner, the pensioner and the superannuated civil servant are already finding it difficult to make ends meet.

"Every transaction purchasing some article from a business will carry a duty of one cent for every ten dollars or every part of ten dollars. That means that if a person buys a packet of cigarettes, or even a box of matches, on that transaction there will be one cent duty payable."

Mr. Dunstan said: "While this tax is hitting the average citizen extraordinarily hard, the Treasurer will give no undertaking that he will not this year, extend the duty to a payment out of every wage and salary pay packet, directly to the Treasury each week or fortnight.

"The tax affecting purchases has already been passed in the House of Assembly, on the casting vote of the Speaker, with the Labor Party voting against the increased tax. But it is an easy matter for the Treasurer to introduce another amendment involving wages. Mr. Hall has already indicated that in his opinion, this may be necessary.

"These measures, Mr. Dunstan said, "are much more sweeping and very much heavier in impost than anything ever proposed by the Labor Government, yet the present Treasurer attacked the Labor Government for its milder forms of taxes, when he was in Opposition."

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Mr. Dunstan continued: "Contrary to everything he said and did while in Opposition, the L.C.L. Treasurer has introduced a measure which will have a grave inflationary effect, and will adversely hit the pockets of every wage and salary earner and everyone on a fixed income."
