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Press statement - SA Television Series

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PRESS STATEMENT. 9/11/70 97

FROM: THE PREMIER (MR. DUNSTAN)

SUBJECT: SA TELEVISION SERIES

Plans for a major SA television film production venture which could bring more than \$1m. into the State, were announced today by the Premier (Mr. Dunstan).

He said the project, financed by a group of South Australians and produced by Group Productions of North Adelaide, involved the making of two 26-programme entertainment series for both local and overseas distribution.

Mr. Dunstan described the venture as the most ambitious of its kind to be undertaken in South Australia, and said it would be an important step towards increasing the State's film potential. "The two series will feature light musical entertainment with one aimed at the 14 to 20 age group and the other at people over 18 years.

"They will both feature local talent filmed on location at some of the State's most scenically beautiful areas."

Mr. Dunstan said the first pilot film of the 14 - 20 series had been completed. It was called "Heavy Gear" and featured blues music filmed at Waterfall Gully, at a National Trust home, and in an Adelaide discotheque.

"The pilot for the second series will be filmed in about three weeks, and will centre around the South Australian wine industry with location shots in the Barossa Valley, the Adelaide parklands, and along the banks of the River Torrens.

"Eventually it is planned to produce a 30-minute programme for each series at a rate of one a week."

Mr. Dunstan said that Mr. T.A. Milburn, representing the venture, had told him that Australian rights for the two series were being negotiated in Sydney, while a US film distributor had also shown interest in both series.

"Mr. Milburn has also told me that a percentage of profits from the venture will go to charities which have assisted the project, while a considerable portion of the initial earnings will be channelled back into future programmes to ensure a steady rise in the standard of productions."

Mr. Dunstan said he believed the venture was an excellent one and wished it every success.

"It will provide incentive and encouragement to local talent and will, through shot locations, promote South Australian scenery and tourist attractions.

"It also shows that South Australia has people with the skills necessary to assist in providing a foundation for a film industry."