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**Title:**  
Press statement - St Ignatius College Speech Night

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PRESS STATEMENT: 10/12/70.

FROM: THE PREMIER (MR. DUNSTAN)

"The task of modern education involved more than teaching students how to cope with academic problems, facts and exercises", the Premier (Mr. Dunstan) said today.

"Modern education demanded that teachers as well as parents encouraged students of all ages to think for themselves and to assess the values of ideas independently," he said.

Mr. Dunstan was speaking at the St. Ignatius College Speech Night at which he presented the year's prizes.

"We live in a world whose technology and sociology is advancing at such a pace that it is essential for the community to provide educational patterns that will allow students and young citizens to be sufficiently flexible in their appreciation of new and sometimes radically different ideas."

"If we do not do this, the social consequences in the future could be an inability to respond intelligently and effectively to new social challenges and demands."

"Our students should be given the ability to decide on the basis of learned premises what are the real, right and just kinds of community social relationships."

"They should not be taught simply a slavish conformity to patterns of behaviour which are often imposed without any thought as to whether there is any meaning in the patterns."

"For instance, people in the community should be able to determine their own patterns of dress and social conduct as long as they do not hurt anyone else, and while this in some cases leads to a new sort of conformity, the important thing is people should be quite free to decide for themselves."

"It is important that our students and young citizens should be taught this, so that their decisions are taken positively and not just because people are saying or doing some things."

"In fact, what matters is that people should be able to recognise what is important in human and social relationships and to act upon that, rather than be directed by forms imposed and directed conventionally and from the outside."

"In the worlds of science, technology, politics and the humanities, it is also essential that young citizens and students are able to make decisions and form opinions for themselves."

"That is not to say that they should throw out the accumulated wisdom and knowledge of our society. Without it no effective decision can be made, and in advocating intellectual self-determinism, one has to make sure, as it were, that the intelligent baby is not thrown out with the conventional bathwater."

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