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**Title:**  
Speech Opening SGIC's Whyalla Office

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN, OPENING STATE GOVERNMENT  
INSURANCE COMMISSION'S WHYALLA OFFICE.

15.9.72

MY PARLIAMENTARY COLLEAGUES, MR. MILNE, MR. GILLEN, LADIES  
AND GENTLEMEN;

I WAS DELIGHTED TO BE ASKED TO PERFORM TODAY'S CEREMONY OPENING  
THE STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION'S FIRST REGIONAL OFFICE.

THE VERY FACT THAT THE OPENING TAKES PLACE WITHIN NINE MONTHS OF  
THE COMMISSION'S OPENING ITS DOORS FOR BUSINESS AND LESS THAN TWO  
YEARS SINCE ITS INITIAL ESTABLISHMENT BY PARLIAMENT IS PROOF OF  
ITS SUSTAINED GROWTH AND EVIDENCE OF THE ENTERPRISE OF ITS BOARD,  
GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF.

OUR BELIEF, WHEN WE FIRST PROPOSED SETTING UP SUCH A COMMISSION,  
THAT IT WOULD RAPIDLY PROVE ITS WORTH HAS ALREADY BEEN BORNE OUT.

2.

ALTHOUGH IT IS STILL IN ITS INFANCY, THE COMMISSION HAS PROVED  
ITS VALUE BOTH IN THE SERVICES OFFERED TO THE PUBLIC AND IN THE  
COMMITMENT IT HAS TO THE INVESTMENT OF ITS FUNDS WITHIN SOUTH  
AUSTRALIA TO HELP FINANCE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT.

IT WAS APPARENT FROM THE FIRST DAY THAT THE COMMISSION BEGAN  
BUSINESS THAT IT WOULD RECEIVE A READY RESPONSE FROM THE PUBLIC.  
PREMIUM INCOME AND THE NUMBER OF CLIENTS HANDLED BY THE  
COMMISSION HAVE RISEN STEADILY. IT NOW HAS MORE THAN 3,250 CLIENTS  
AND THIS MONTH PASSED THE \$1 MILLION MARK IN MONEY INVESTED IN  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA. EQUALLY ENCOURAGING, THE INCREASED BUSINESS HAS  
OCCURRED ACROSS THE BOARD IN ALL CLASSES OF INSURANCE WHICH THE  
COMMISSION PROVIDES, THAT IS VIRTUALLY EVERYTHING EXCEPT LIFE  
COVER. AND THAT ALREADY COVERS QUITE A FIELD - STARTING WITH  
THE STATE FLEET IN THE SHAPE OF THE GOOD SHIP TROUBRIDGE, INSURED  
FOR ONE MILLION DOLLARS, AND EXTENDING DOWN THROUGH MY AND OTHER  
PEOPLE'S CARS TO SOMEBODY WHO I'M TOLD HAS INSURED HIS BICYCLE  
WITH THE COMMISSION.

BY THE WAY, THAT'S NOT THE COMMISSION'S ONLY CONNECTION WITH BICYCLES. IT HAS GIVEN 80 OF THEM TO BE USED FOR ROAD SAFETY INSTRUCTION TO CHILDREN AT THE NEW INSTRUCTION CENTRE AT MARION - WHICH SHOWS, I THINK, THAT THE COMMISSION HAS A HEART AS WELL AS A SOUND BUSINESS HEAD.

THE LEGISLATION PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION WAS AMONG THE VERY FIRST MEASURES INTRODUCED AFTER MY GOVERNMENT'S RETURN TO OFFICE. I SAID AT THE TIME THAT OUR AIM WAS TO KEEP INSURANCE PREMIUMS AT A REASONABLE LEVEL AND TO ENSURE THAT BY COMPETITION, ADEQUATE SERVICE WAS GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC, NOT ONLY BY WAY OF PREMIUM RATES BUT IN CONDITIONS OF POLICIES AND THE WAY IN WHICH CLAIMS WERE PROCESSED. ALTHOUGH ALL OTHER STATES HAD ENTERED THE FIELD THE BILL DID NOT GO THROUGH WITHOUT OPPOSITION.

INDEED ONE SPEAKER, IN A FLURRY OF CARELESS RHETORIC, WENT SO FAR AS TO CALL IT A "FLOURISH OF SOCIALISM WHICH WILL DO NOTHING THAT MATTERS FOR THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS". WELL, I DON'T THINK IT HAS TAKEN VERY LONG TO MAKE THAT ASSERTION LOOK DOWNRIGHT SILLY.

THE COMMISSION HAS, IN FACT, EXERCISED A SIGNIFICANT STABILISING EFFECT ON THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AND IT HAS ACHIEVED THIS WITH A SMALL STAFF AND BY CHARGING FAIR AND PROPER PREMIUMS.

NOW WE HAVE REACHED THE STAGE WHERE IT CAN EMBARK ON ITS FIRST MAJOR EXPANSION - THE MOVE INTO A PROVINCIAL CITY. THE GOVERNMENT WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED THAT THE COMMISSION SELECTED WHYALLA FOR THIS PURPOSE AND THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR THIS TO CO-INCIDE WITH THE OPENING OF A REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

I SAID INITIALLY THAT THIS WAS THE COMMISSION'S FIRST REGIONAL OFFICE. IT WILL NOT BE THE ONLY ONE. I ANTICIPATE THAT IT WILL NOT BE LONG BEFORE THE COMMISSION OPENS OTHER BRANCHES ELSEWHERE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA. THE GOVERNMENT IS ANXIOUS THAT AS MANY OF ITS SERVICES AS POSSIBLE SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN THE MAIN REGIONAL CENTRES.

I'M SURE THAT THE PEOPLE OF WHYALLA AND THE AREA AROUND WILL SEE THAT THIS OFFICE PROVIDES THEM WITH A VALUABLE AND CONVENIENT SERVICE AND IT THEREFORE GIVES ME VERY MUCH PLEASURE OFFICIALLY TO DECLARE IT OPEN.

THANK YOU.