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**Title:**

Press release: Mr Robert Martin

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PRESS RELEASE FROM THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN.

SUBJECT: MR. ROBERT MARTIN.

1.6.72

The Federal Government is indulging in election year bombast over the South Australian Government's decision to permit Mr. Robert Martin to address an anti-conscription rally.

They are far more interested in 'stirring' than in the rule of law. If the Government had any real regard for rule of law, it would remove the National Service Act from the Statute Books.

The Act is immoral and brings the whole body of law into disrepute. Mr. McMahon, Senator Greenwood and their colleagues in their election year anxiety to rush into print have overlooked the fact that this is not the first such occasion a National Service prisoner has addressed a peaceful rally.

This happened with Mr. Charles Martin last year, after permission had been obtained from the State Government.

There was not a whimper from the Federal Government then.

The National Service Act is callously political legislation which was hurriedly introduced to provide cannon fodder for the increasingly unpopular war in Vietnam.

It provided penalties far greater than those often given to persons of the same age who have been involved in breaches of the law - such as breaking and entering - that all people would agree should be dealt with sternly.

It is because the Act is so repugnant that thousands of young men feel compelled by their consciences to disobey it.

I applaud the guts of the individuals who are prepared to disobey it and accept the consequences of doing so.