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EMBARGOED: RELEASABLE 2200 HOURS S.A. TIME, THURSDAY, 8TH JUNE, 1972.

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN.

URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.

Melbourne - The Premier, Mr. Dunstan, announced tonight that he will make a new effort to get Federal Government support for urban planning and redevelopment at this month's Premiers' Conference.

He was speaking at a dinner in Heidelberg in support of the ALP candidate for the Federal Seat of Diamond Valley, Mr. David McKenzie.

Mr. Dunstan said he would formally list this item on the agenda for discussion with the Prime Minister, Mr. McMahon.

He also intended to circulate to other participants a paper setting out the case for massive Federal assistance in these areas.

"But frankly, I don't know how much good it's going to do.

"The Commonwealth Government has so far obstinately refused to assume its responsibilities in the areas of urban planning and renewal",

Mr. Dunstan said.

"The vast majority of Australians live in cities.

"Those cities are becoming increasingly unworkable.

"Everybody knows this, except, apparently Mr. McMahon.

"Everybody agrees that financial assistance at a level that the Commonwealth alone can provide is the only solution, except, apparently Mr. McMahon".

Mr. Dunstan said he had made repeated efforts to start a dialogue with the Commonwealth on this, so far unsuccessful.

"When I try to speak to Federal Ministers about it they refer me to the Prime Minister; when I raise it with the Prime Minister he refers me to his Ministers.

"It's an Alice in Wonderland situation with Mr. McMahon in the role of doormouse.

"But I'll keep hammering the point home".

Mr. Dunstan said he anticipated that help for the problems of the cities would be forthcoming from a Federal Labor Government.

"The ALP appreciates the dimensions of the problem and the urgent need for action. A Federal Labor administration would work in tandem with the States in seeking solutions and then applying them."

The present Federal Government's attitude was impossible to understand. In every other comparable Federation - such as West Germany, Canada and the United States - the central Government provided this vitally necessary assistance.

"Only here is it possible for a Prime Minister to watch with apparent unconcern the decay and dislocation of great cities.

"In South Australia the State Government had taken specific measures - including policies to limit the growth of metropolitan Adelaide and to plan a new city of 200,000 people.

An urban renewal scheme had been formulated for one inner suburban area (Hackney North) badly affected by "urban blight".

"But - with our very limited resources - all we can do is relieve just a part of the problem.

"It's the Federal Government which has the resources to provide the surgery required for recovery".