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PRESS RELEASE FROM THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN.

PETROL CONTROLS LIFTED.

10.8.72

Government controls over the sale of petrol will cease at midnight tonight, the Premier, Mr. Dunstan, announced this evening.

Mr. Dunstan was speaking following a special meeting of Executive Council at which a proclamation was made ceasing the operation of Parts 3 and 4 of the Liquid Fuel (Rationing) Act.

He said that the Government was returning the control of petrol reselling to the oil companies now that normal production had been resumed at the Port Stanvac Refinery.

"But I want to issue a warning: The lifting of legal restraints does not mean the State is in any way well supplied with petrol - we are still not out of the woods."

"We promised that emergency petrol permits would not be retained any longer than necessary, and accordingly this is the earliest possible time it is safe to remove restrictions."

Mr. Dunstan said that when Port Stanvac commenced tomorrow morning to pump 1.4 million gallons of petrol to bulk tanks at Birkenhead, the total stock of usable petrol in South Australia will be just half a million gallons more than what was on hand at the beginning of restrictions.

Tankers with petrol are on their way to Port Lincoln and Port Pirie.

"However there is still not enough for people to return to normal patterns of consumption", he said.

"Some parts of the State are better off than others, and it will be some considerable time before all stocks go back to normal."

"Accordingly, I urge all people in the State to purchase only sufficient petrol for their immediate essential needs."

"If people are irresponsible in their buying, then everyone will suffer."

"If there is panic buying, some petrol stations currently in stock will have no supplies by Monday."

Mr. Dunstan said that he expected voluntary rationing to be imposed by oil companies and service station proprietors for some time.

"The S.A. Automobile Chamber of Commerce is recommending to its members in both country and metropolitan areas that they should sell only limited gallonage to regular customers."

Mr. Dunstan warned that motorists contemplating travelling in country areas should exercise care because there is no certainty that they will be able to obtain petrol in some areas, particularly the north.

He said that many service stations in both city and country areas are out of stock, and the possibility of replenishment depended not only on the ability of the oil companies to deliver stocks to all service stations, but also on whether there will be sufficient stocks to do so.

Mr. Dunstan said the Government appreciated the very responsible attitude shown by citizens during the emergency permit period.

"I thank everyone involved - members of the public, Government officers, representatives of the oil industry - for a magnificent response to a critical situation."

"We could have had large scale unemployment and a real economic blow to the State had not everyone co-operated."

"I trust that a similar spirit of good will and public responsibility will continue until supplies are back to normal."