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Press release: Industrial Code

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PRESS RELEASE FROM THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN.

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28.9.72

A tiny group of Trade Union leaders were attempting deliberate misrepresentation over the Government's revision of the Industrial Code, and were acting entirely against the principles of the Trade Union movement, the Premier, Mr. Dunstan, charged today.

Mr. Dunstan said their actions could only be deplored and condemned by supporters of labor movement solidarity.

He said that the Australian Labor Party had always consulted with the Trades and Labor Council on legislation affecting the industrial conditions of workers.

"Formal methods have been set up to do this.

"Minutes of the Revision Committee set up by the Trades and Labor Council show how deep this deception and misrepresentation is.

"The Minutes show that when Mr. Gregory of the Amalgamated Metal Workers Union moved for the repeal of Penal Provisions in the Code, he did not get a seconder to his motion.

"Mr. Giles, of the Plumbers and Gas Fitters Union, who now criticises this situation, was at that meeting.

"Mr. Cavanagh of the Miscellaneous Workers Union who supports Mr. Giles' criticism is also a member of the Committee.

"Further, at a subsequent meeting a motion for the retention of the Illegal Strike Provisions was seconded by Mr. Giles.

"This shows how hollow and devious their behaviour is now."

Mr. Dunstan said that the present revisions of the Industrial Code before Parliament were those recommended by the Trades and Labor Council.

He said that the Committee recommended no significant alterations to the Penal Clauses because of possible Legislative Council Opposition to all other recommended reforms to the Code.

"It was a matter of seeking significant reforms in the Code area, or having the Legislative Council toss the whole bill out.

"When we tried to abolish the penal clauses in 1967 the Legislative Council rejected the proposals.

"We either have an improved code, or we forget about any change at all.

"They are determined to serve interests, not equality or fair play."

The Premier said the South Australian Government, like the South Australian Labor Party is totally and irrevocably opposed to any penal provisions in either the State's Industrial Code or in the National Arbitration System.