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PUBLICATIONS

The Australian Labor Party has put forward a firm and specific policy on the problems of publications associated with sex and violence in its policy statement for the forthcoming State election, the Premier, Mr. Dunstan, said today.

He was commenting on remarks by the Rev. Lance Shilton at Holy Trinity Church today.

"Mr. Shilton has apparently not read the A.L.P. policy speech which I delivered last Monday when he claims that neither party leader has made a clear policy statement on this.

"I said then, and I repeat now, that the Government is very conscious of the problem of publications associated with sex and violence.

"We believe that adult citizens should be free to make their own decisions about what they read and see, and free from the dictation of others on what is a matter of adult, personal, judgment.

"We also believe that people have the right to be protected against having offensive material forced upon them and that they should be able freely to use the streets and business places of a city without being exposed to offensive material.

"We recognize, too, that Government has an obligation to protect the right of parents to make decisions as to their children's reading matter."

The Government will introduce a restricted classification for publications dealing with sex and violence.

"A committee will be authorized to impose restrictions on the display, sale and advertising of such material and strict measures will be taken to ensure that such restrictions are complied with."

As to other matters, the Criminal and Penal Law Reform Committee, headed by Justice Mitchell, is to make recommendations to the Government. Mr. Shilton has had an opportunity to make representations to it.