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Title:
Speech at South Australian Battery Makers Pty. Ltd.

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN, AT SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BATTERY MAKERS
PTY. LTD.

30/11/71.

MR. MAYOR, MR. ROUTLEY, MR. COCHRANE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVITATION TO TAKE PART IN YOUR MILLIONTH BATTERY CEREMONY. IT MARKS A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPANY WHICH, IN ITS SEVEN YEARS OF OPERATION AT ELIZABETH, HAS ESTABLISHED ITSELF AS ONE OF THE STATE'S MOST VIGOROUS GROWTH COMPANIES. A REFLECTION OF THIS IS, AS MR. COCHRANE, REMARKED THAT WHILE IT TOOK SEVEN YEARS TO PRODUCE YOUR FIRST MILLION YOU EXPECTED THE SECOND TO COME UP IN FOUR YEARS TIME. I WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED, TOO, TO LEARN THAT YOU ARE PLANNING FURTHER EXPANSION TO YOUR PREMISES. IT'S YET ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE GENERAL SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PATTERN OF DEVELOPMENT AND THAT OF THE ELIZABETH-SALISBURY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX IN PARTICULAR. IT WAS IN ELIZABETH JUST OVER A MONTH AGO - AT THE OPENING OF WILKINS' NEW FACTORY - THAT I REMARKED THAT WE WERE AT PRESENT AUSTRALIA'S MOST RAPIDLY DEVELOPING STATE.

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YOU MAY BE INTERESTED, SIR, TO HEAR THE RESULTS OF A RECENT SURVEY WHICH CONFIRMS THIS VIEW. EACH YEAR THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BRANCH OF MY DEPARTMENT MAKES A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY TO ESTABLISH THE LEVEL AND DIVERSITY OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE STATE. THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY COVERING THE 1970/71 FINANCIAL YEAR ARE NOW TO HAND. THEY SHOW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BY 119 COMPANIES OF ALMOST \$70M. THESE FIRMS EMPLOY MORE THAN 68,000 PEOPLE AND ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT HALF OF OUR TOTAL MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT. IN ADDITION THOSE COMPANIES HAVE A PLANNED EXPENDITURE OF A FURTHER \$57M. NUMBERS OF THEM, OF COURSE, ARE LOCATED IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA. BUT DEVELOPMENT IS CERTAINLY NOT CONFINED TO ADELAIDE. THE SURVEY SHOWED SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT IN WHYALLA, PORT PIRIE, PORT LINCOLN, AND THE SOUTH EAST TOWNS TO CITE A FEW.

THIS IS A RECORD OF WHICH WE CAN - AND DO - FEEL PROUD. IT IS PROOF THAT SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S POTENTIAL IS APPRECIATED BY INDUSTRIALISTS AND THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR CONFIDENCE IN THE MOST PRACTICAL WAY.

I WOULD, INDEED, BE ENTIRELY CHEERFUL WERE IT NOT FOR THE GATHERING CLOUDS ON THE NATIONAL SCENE. I'VE SPOKEN SEVERAL TIMES RECENTLY ABOUT THE NEED FOR URGENT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ACTION TO STIMULATE THE ECONOMY AND HAVE SUGGESTED WAYS IN WHICH THIS COULD BE DONE.

I DID SO BECAUSE I FELT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE TO AVOID RISING UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE KIND OF "STAGFLATION" WHICH HAS PLAGUED SO MANY OTHER ECONOMIES. THIS IS NOT A QUESTION OF PARTY POLITICS, MR. ASKIN IN NEW SOUTH WALES, HAS ASKED THE PRIME MINISTER TO CONVENE A PREMIERS' CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS THE ECONOMY BECAUSE HE TOO BELIEVES THERE IS A NEED FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION. BUT SO FAR NEITHER OF US HAS BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL IN OUR REPRESENTATIONS. I HAVEN'T YET HAD A REPLY FROM MR. McMAHON AND NOR, I BELIEVE, HAS MR. ASKIN. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LOST ONE OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY CORRECTIVE MEASURES LAST AUGUST WHEN THE BUDGET WAS PRESENTED. IT SEEMS INTENT ON LOSING ANOTHER ONE NOW.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA STANDS TO LOSE PARTICULARLY IN ANY NATIONAL DOWN-TURN BECAUSE OF OUR HEAVY OUTPUT OF CONSUMER GOODS, MOTOR CARS AND THEIR COMPONENTS - A FACT, OF WHICH YOUR COMPANY WILL BE VERY WELL AWARE.

INACTION BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE A DISPROPORTIONATE EFFECT ON PRESENT ECONOMY. IT WOULD BE DOUBLY DISTRESSING IF IT ALSO HINDERED THE PATTERN OF GROWTH AND DIVERSIFICATION WE HAVE GOT ESTABLISHED AND WHICH OFFERS A PARTIAL SOLUTION TO THESE PROBLEMS.

SIR, I CONGRATULATE THE WORKERS AND MANAGEMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BATTERY MAKERS FOR WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED HERE SO FAR. IT IS, BY ANY STANDARDS, AN IMPRESSIVE ACHIEVEMENT, AND I MUCH LOOK FORWARD TO BEING HERE - AS PREMIER - IN 1975 TO TAKE PART IN YOUR CELEBRATIONS OF THE SECOND MILLION.

THANK YOU.