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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN, PROCLAMATION DAY, 28TH DECEMBER, 1972, GLENELG.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, YOUR WORSHIP, MY PARLIAMENTARY COLLEAGUES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

IT WAS A REMARKABLE AND DIVERSE COMPANY OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO GATHERED IN THE SANDHILLS HERE 136 YEARS AGO TODAY AS GOVERNOR HINDMARSH FORMALLY CONSTITUTED SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

THEIR ACHIEVEMENT WAS TO BE EVEN MORE REMARKABLE.

DIFFERENT IN BELIEF; TEMPERAMENT AND CHARACTER; THEY COULD, AND DID, QUARREL BITTERLY AMONG THEMSELVES. BUT EVEN AT THE HEIGHT OF THEIR FACTIONALISM THEY SHARED A COMMON VISION OF WHAT SOUTH AUSTRALIA COULD BECOME. THEY ALSO HAD IN COMMON AN IRON-WILLED DETERMINATION TO MAKE IT WORK.

THEIR INTERNAL DISPUTES AT ONE POINT BROUGHT THE YOUNG SETTLEMENT TO A SITUATION DESCRIBED BY A LATER HISTORIAN AS "NEAR TO ANARCHY".

BUT FROM THIS THERE EMERGED A STATE IN WHICH THE PRINCIPLES OF CIVIL LIBERTY WERE FIRMLY EMBEDDED AND PASSIONATELY UPHELD.

THERE ALSO EMERGED ANOTHER GREAT LEGACY, THE ORDERED AND MAGNIFICENT VISION OF COLONEL WILLIAM LIGHT IN HIS PLAN FOR THE CITY OF ADELAIDE.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S SUCCESS SINCE THEN- AND WE ARE A SUCCESS STORY- IS, I THINK, LARGELY A PRODUCT OF THESE TWO FORCES, A COMMITMENT TO INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY AND A BELIEF THAT, BY INTELLIGENT PLANNING, A SOCIETY CAN SOLVE ITS PROBLEMS.

IF SOUTH AUSTRALIA IS TO BE AS SUCCESSFUL IN THE LAST DECADES OF THIS CENTURY AS IT HAS BEEN IN THE PAST 136 YEARS, WE MUST RETAIN AND STRENGTHEN THESE QUALITIES.

THIS IS A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE IN. IT CAN BECOME A GREAT ONE. IT CAN ALSO, UNLESS WE DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, BECOME A MOST UNPLEASANT ONE; CHOKED, POLLUTED AND DEGRADED BY THE SAME ILLS WHICH THREATEN MOST OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE IS ALWAYS A HAZARDOUS BUSINESS. FUTURE GENERATIONS ARE ALWAYS AMAZED AT THEIR PREDECESSORS' FAILURE TO PREDICT THE CONSEQUENCES OF TRENDS WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS -- GIVEN THE GIFT OF HINDSIGHT.

BUT, IMPERFECT AS ANY PROJECTION MIGHT BE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A PROPHET TO SEE THAT THERE ARE SOME FRIGHTENINGLY COMPLEX PROBLEMS AHEAD.

WE ALL SHARE AN IMPERILLED AND POTENTIALLY SPOILED ENVIRONMENT.

RATHER FEARRULLY, WE WATCH THE GROWTH OF A TECHNOLOGY WHICH COULD OVERWHELM US WITH ITS PRODUCTS AND ITS WASTES INSTEAD OF LIBERATING US AND WE WATCH THE BUILD-UP OF SOCIAL PRESSURES WHICH MAKE PEOPLE THINK THEY COUNT FOR LITTLE AND CAN INFLUENCE NOTHING.

THE MAJORITY OF US LIVE IN AN EVER-SPRAWLING, INCREASINGLY UNWORKABLE METROPOLIS.

PROBLEMS OF THIS DIMENSION WON'T BE SOLVED BY TINKERING. WE NEED THE VISION OF A COLONEL LIGHT BROUGHT TO BEAR ON HUMAN AS WELL AS MATERIAL ISSUES.

IF I CAN GIVE ONE INSTANCE: WE KNOW THAT THE MAIN PROBLEMS AFFECTING METROPOLITAN ADELAIDE NOW ARE DECAY AT THE CENTRE (THE COLONEL'S CITY; LIKE ONE OF CROMWELL'S RUINS; HAS BEEN KNOCKED ABOUT A BIT) AND EPIDEMIC GROWTH AROUND THE PERIMETER.

THE SOLUTION, PLAINLY, IS TO REVITALISE THE HEART AND TO GIVE THE NEW COMMUNITIES AT THE RIM PLANNING OF THE ORDER, SCALE AND IMAGINATION ORIGINALLY PROVIDED FOR THE NUCLEUS.

WHICH IS A VERY EASY THING TO SAY AND AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT THING TO DO.

I AM CONVINCED THAT IT MUST BE DONE AND THAT IT CANNOT BE DONE WITHOUT A COMBINATION OF VISIONARY TALENT AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF VERY MANY PEOPLE.

IF PLANNING FOR PEOPLE IS TO SUCCEED, THERE HAS TO BE THE BROADEST COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.

AND I DON'T MEAN JUST ASKING PEOPLE AT A REFERENDUM OR A TOWN MEETING TO ENDORSE, OR OTHERWISE, SOME BUREAUCRAT'S BLUEPRINT, I MEAN PRACTICAL AND EFFECTIVE INVOLVEMENT BY THE PEOPLE MOST AFFECTED.

SOONER OR LATER, OF COURSE, FIRM DECISIONS HAVE TO BE TAKEN, MORE OFTEN THAN NOT BY GOVERNMENTS, AND NOT ALL DISSENTING VIEWS CAN BE ACCOMMODATED.

BUT ANY PLAN - CITY, TRANSPORT OR ECONOMIC - HAS AN INFINITELY GREATER CHANCE OF ACCEPTANCE AND SUCCESS IF IT IS THE PRODUCT OF INFORMED DEBATE AND NOT IMPOSITION.

WE HAVE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO PUT THIS INTO PRACTICE IN THE NEW CITY OF MURRAY AND THE OTHER REGIONAL CENTRES WHICH WILL FOLLOW AS WELL AS AROUND THE METROPOLITAN AREA ITSELF.

AFTER THE EXPERTS HAVE DONE THEIR WORK, THE PEOPLE WHO WILL LIVE IN THESE COMMUNITIES MUST SHARE IN THEIR CREATION.

I THINK THAT PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT AND CHALLENGING JOB FACING FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS THIS DECADE IS TO PROVIDE THE MACHINERY TO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE AND THE INITIATIVE TO GET IT UNDERWAY.

AND THIS APPLIES NOT ONLY TO TOWN AND COMMUNITY PLANNING BUT TO A VERY WIDE RANGE OF OTHER AREAS AFFECTING PEOPLE IN THEIR DAILY LIVES; AT WORK AND AT LEISURE.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS MADE A START; SO FAR ON A SMALL AND FLEXIBLE SCALE, WITH PROJECTS FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN REPLANNING HACKNEY AND CREATING THE NOARLUNGA CIVIC COMPLEX.

I HOPE SHORTLY TO ANNOUNCE OTHER AREAS IN WHICH SIMILAR PRINCIPLES OF PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY CAN BE APPLIED SO THAT CITIZENS HAVE A MEANINGFUL SAY IN THEIR FUTURE ENVIRONMENT.

PLANNING AND DISCUSSION OF THIS TYPE WAS A NOTABLE FEATURE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LIFE IN THE EARLY DAYS OF SETTLEMENT.

IT WAS A NOISY BUSINESS. THE SETTLERS WEREN'T A SEDATE COMMITTEE BUT A PACK OF INDIVIDUALISTS UNAFRAID OF THE DIN OF BATTLE IN A CAUSE THEY BELIEVED TO BE IMPORTANT.

THEY SET OUT TO CREATE - AND THEY BELIEVED THEY COULD DO SO
- WHAT AN EARLY PARLIAMENTARIAN CALLED:

"A FAIRER ATHENS AND A FREER ROME".

STRIPPED OF ITS NINETEENTH CENTURY GRANDILOQUENCE, WE CAN
SAY WE HAVE THE SAME CHANCE.

THANK YOU.