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**Title:**  
Speech at YMCA luncheon

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MR DALY, GENTLEMEN:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR INVITING ME HERE TODAY.

MANY OF YOU ARE PROMINENT ADELAIDE BUSINESSMEN, AND THIS MEANS THAT WE SHARE A CONTINUING CONCERN WITH THE NATIONAL AND SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ECONOMIES. IT IS ON THIS TOPIC THAT I WANT TO SPEAK TODAY.

I HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE ME IF I START ON A SOMEWHAT PARTISAN NOTE.

ONE OF THE BRIGHTEST PROMISES HELD OUT BY THE ELECTION OF A COMMONWEALTH LABOR GOVERNMENT IN DECEMBER 1972, WAS THAT AFTER MORE THAN TWO DECADES THERE WAS AN END TO THE ABSURD ECONOMIC SHILLY-SHALLYING, THE CONSTANT STOP-GO, THAT WAS SUCH A DEPRESSING FEATURE OF COMMONWEALTH LIBERAL GOVERNMENTS.

IN STATE POLITICS, WE FELT THAT THERE WAS A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IN OFFICE WITH A COMMITMENT TO RATIONAL PLANNING, AND A WILL TO UNDERTAKE RATIONAL PLANNING.

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AND WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SO FAR IN THIS DIRECTION IS IMPRESSIVE INDEED. THIS, I BELIEVE, MUST BE ACKNOWLEDGED BY REASONABLE AND FAIR MEN.

THE PROBLEM, SO FAR AS I SEE IT, IS THAT WE ARE BECOMING VICTIMS OF OUR SUCCESS - THAT IN WORKING TOWARDS A SOLUTION OF THE MOST PRESSING PROBLEMS WE ARE IDENTIFYING OTHERS.

FOR INSTANCE, THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT QUITE PROPERLY CONCERNED WITH NATIONAL ECONOMIC PLANNING HAS CONCURRED WITH THE RECENT TARIFF BOARD DECISION ON DOMESTIC APPLIANCES. ON A NATIONAL BASIS, IT WAS AN EMINENTLY SENSIBLE DECISION. IT DOES, HOWEVER, HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON SOME SPECIFIC AREAS - IN THIS CASE THE DECENTRALISED REGIONS OF ADELAIDE AND ORANGE. THERE WERE SIMILAR DIFFICULTIES WITH SOME OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COOMBS TASK FORCE REPORT, ESPECIALLY THOSE AFFECTING THE WINE AND BRANDY INDUSTRY.

THE BOARD EITHER DOES NOT APPRECIATE, OR OMITTS TO SAY, THAT THE LOGICAL RESULT OF MANY OF ITS ECONOMIC REMEDIES IS TO PRODUCE EVER GREATER CONCENTRATION OF POPULATION IN THE SWOLLEN CITIES OF SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE. THIS IS BECAUSE TRANSPORT COSTS INVOLVED IN NATIONAL PRODUCT DISTRIBUTION FAVOUR THESE CITIES.

VERY HIGH SOCIAL COSTS (SUCH AS MORE TRAFFIC, GREATER POLLUTION, GREATER PRESSURE ON SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS AND THE LIKE) FLOW FROM SUCH A POLICY AND SHOULD BE GIVEN APPROPRIATE WEIGHT BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

I DO NOT WISH TO BE MISUNDERSTOOD. CONDITIONS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA ARE GOOD, BUOYANT EVEN. I DON'T BELIEVE FOR A MOMENT THERE WILL BE SERIOUS EFFECTS ON SOUTH AUSTRALIA AS A RESULT OF THIS OR ANY OTHER SINGLE TARIFF BOARD OR COOMBS REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

BUT I DO BELIEVE THAT THEY SHOULD ALERT US TO A POTENTIAL DIFFICULTY WHICH WE SHOULD SEEK TO CORRECT NOW BEFORE IT BECOMES ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL.

DECISIONS AFFECTING ONE INDUSTRY AFTER ANOTHER - DOMESTIC APPLIANCES, WINE AND BRANDY, ELECTRONICS AND SO ON - HAVE AN ABSOLUTE EFFECT AND ALSO A CUMULATIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT WHICH CAN BE GREATER THAN THE SUM OF THE PARTS.

IT IS MY CONTENTION THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE SPECIAL MEASURES TO RECONCILE TARIFF AND TAXATION POLICY AIMING AT MAXIMUM ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY WITH REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT NEEDS.

COMMONWEALTH PLANNERS SOMETIMES SEEM TO BE HYPNOTISED BY THE LABOUR MARKET AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE AND TO PAY INSUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO THE NEEDS OF THE OTHER OUTLYING STATES.