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Speech opening Australian National Industries Forge

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2091
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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN, OPENING AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
INDUSTRIES FORGE. ADELAIDE.

10.4.73

MR. DEBENHAM, MR. LEARD, MR. JOHNSON, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ASKING ME TO OPEN A.N.I.'S NEW ADELAIDE PLANT.

THANK YOU, TOO, FOR YOUR REMARKS ABOUT THE ASSISTANCE YOU'VE RECEIVED FROM THE STATE GOVERNMENT IN SETTING UP IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

IT'S ASSISTANCE WE WERE VERY HAPPY TO GIVE AS WE WERE MOST ANXIOUS TO GET THIS FACTORY ESTABLISHED HERE.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF REASONS FOR THIS.

PRIMARILY, OF COURSE, IT IS A MAJOR PROVIDER OF JOBS.

2.

SECONDLY, A.N.I. IS AN AUSTRALIAN OWNED COMPANY, CONTROLLED AND MANAGED BY AUSTRALIANS.

IT HAS A VERY STRONG GROWTH RECORD WITH SALES INCREASING BY MORE THAN FOUR TIMES OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

AND AS ONE OF THE BASE MANUFACTURERS SUPPLYING OTHER INDUSTRIES, A.N.I.'S EXISTENCE HERE PROVIDES A FURTHER INDUCEMENT FOR OTHER FIRMS TO COME TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ANOTHER, VERY IMPORTANT, REASON WHY WE WANTED A.N.I. IS THAT IT IS AN EFFICIENT, CONSIDERATE COMPANY.

THE BUILDINGS, EQUIPMENT AND FORGE LAYOUT AT DRY CREEK ARE OF A STANDARD THAT IS AT LEAST EQUAL TO ANY OTHER FORGE IN THE WORLD.

AND THE COMPANY HAS PAID PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS. ITS USE OF NATURAL GAS AND OTHER DESIGN PROCEDURES MEANS THAT AIR, NOISE AND EFFLUENT POLLUTION IS MINIMISED.

YOU MENTIONED, MR. DEBENHAM, THAT IN ADELAIDE WE ARE RELATIVELY FREE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER PROBLEMS THAT AFFLICT THE EASTERN STATE CITIES.

WE ARE. AND WE'RE DETERMINED TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.

OUR EARLIER PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN ENSURING THAT THE NATURAL FACTORS WHICH ATTRACT DEVELOPMENT TO ADELAIDE IN THE FIRST PLACE ARE RETAINED.

BUT A GOVERNMENT CONCERNED WITH CREATING PRACTICAL MEANS OF RECONCILING THE CONFLICTING DEMANDS OF DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION CAN'T AFFORD TO PASS A FEW LAWS AND THEN ASSUME THE MATTER IS SETTLED FOR ALL TIME.

NEW PROBLEMS ARISE AND NEW TECHNIQUES AND STRUCTURES ARE REQUIRED TO SOLVE THEM.

ONE INNOVATION WHICH I THINK WILL HAVE AN EXTREMELY BENEFICIAL EFFECT IN SEEING THAT DECISIONS ON GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT ARE FULLY APPRECIATED SO FAR AS THEY AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT IS NOW GETTING OFF THE GROUND.

WE ANNOUNCED RECENTLY THAT A SYSTEM OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS IS TO BE INTRODUCED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

THESE WILL GIVE US A POSITIVE AND PRACTICAL WAY OF ASSESSING THE LIKELY EFFECTS OF A DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

I BELIEVE IT IS UNDESIRABLE TO ASSUME THAT ENVIRONMENT CONSIDERATIONS SHOULD NECESSARILY OVER-RIDE ALL OTHERS. SOME ADVERSE EFFECTS MAY HAVE TO BE TOLERATED BECAUSE OF OTHER CONSIDERATIONS SUCH AS, SAY, THE SOCIAL IMPORTANCE OF CREATING EMPLOYMENT IN A PARTICULAR AREA.

BUT IT WOULD BE FOLLY TO PLUNGE IN TO A PARTICULAR PROJECT WITHOUT A COOL, UNEMOTIONAL EVALUATION AND PUBLIC CONSIDERATION OF IT, WHETHER IT IS GOVERNMENTAL OR PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS WILL SET OUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH SCHEMES TOGETHER WITH AN ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBLE AMELIORATIVE PROGRAMMES, SUCH AS ALTERNATE SITES, ALTERNATE PROCESSES AND POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAMMES. THEY WILL BE PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND PUBLIC DEBATE ON THEM WILL BE ENCOURAGED.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COUNCIL HAS BEEN GIVING DETAILED STUDY TO HOW THIS NEW SYSTEM WILL WORK.

CABINET HAS YET TO CONSIDER THE COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDATIONS. BUT I EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT SOON.

AS A MEANS BY WHICH WE CAN GET AGREED AND ACCEPTED DEVELOPMENT, THIS IS A SYSTEM WHICH I THINK SHOULD BE WELCOMED BY DEVELOPERS AND CONSERVATIONISTS ALIKE.

CERTAINLY IT IS A FOOLISH INDUSTRIALIST - AND A BRAVE ONE - WHO TODAY TRIES TO DISMISS ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS FROM HIS MIND.

A.N.I. HAVE SHOWN HERE THAT CONCERN TO MINIMISE POLLUTION IN AN EFFICIENT AND RESPONSIBLE FASHION CAN GO HAND IN HAND WITH PROFITABLE DEVELOPMENT.

IT IS A PROJECT OF VERY GREAT VALUE TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND I HAVE MUCH PLEASURE IN OFFICIALLY DECLARING THE DRY CREEK FORGE OPEN.

THANK YOU.