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Title:

Statement: Liberal proposals for boundaries commission

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STATEMENT

from the Premier

Date..... October 1, 1975.....

Embargo.....

State Administration Centre,
Victoria Square, Adelaide,
South Australia 5001
228 4811

LIBERAL PROPOSALS FOR BOUNDARIES COMMISSION.

The Liberal Party's proposed Boundaries Commission is a sham which has only one objective - the continuation of a system which allows Liberal Governments to win office with a gross minority of the popular vote, the Premier, Mr. Dunstan, said today.

"It has the window dressing of a Boundaries Commission but has been framed to ensure that any recommendations it makes could never be carried out.

"Dr. Tonkin's Bill simply seeks to maintain the present unsatisfactory distribution which the people have consistently voted against.

"The Boundaries Commission sought by Dr. Tonkin would have very vague terms of reference, and would have to make political decisions repeatedly made by the people of South Australia at general elections, specifically that there should be one vote, one value, and single member electorates with similar numbers of voters.

"The Liberals say that somehow that is unfair, and they have proposed a powerless, pointless Boundaries Commission which would not be able to implement its decision and which would be liable to political manipulation by governments.

"Indeed, there is no requirement in Dr. Tonkin's Bill for the Government of the day to act on any of the Commission's recommendations, so the present grossly unfair boundaries could be maintained almost forever even while this much vaunted Commission operated.

"The Liberal's proposed Commission could be rendered useless by the Government doing nothing, and indeed a minority of members of Parliament could prevent the Commission from ever meeting.

"Dr. Tonkin's proposal seeks to continue the unfair weighting of country votes and the consequent penalising of the political rights of the majority of South Australians".



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