



Archived at the Flinders Academic Commons:  
<http://hdl.handle.net/2328/27231>

This is a scan of a document number DUN/Speeches/2859  
in the Dunstan Collection, Special Collections, Flinders University Library.  
<http://www.flinders.edu.au/library/info/collections/special/dunstan/>

**Title:**

Statement: Electoral reform

Please acknowledge the source as:  
Dunstan Collection, Flinders University Library.  
Identifier: DUN/Speeches/2859

© Copyright Estate Donald Allan Dunstan



# STATEMENT

from the Premier

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

Embargo.....

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

## ELECTORAL REFORM.

Liberal Party claims that the Government's electoral reforms are an attempted gerrymander show the hypocrisy and selfishness of Liberal policies, the Premier, Mr. Dunstan, said today.

"The changes which I have introduced ensure that the basic principle of democracy - one vote, one value - is permanently written into the South Australian Consitution", Mr. Dunstan said.

"It is clear to any objective person that the proposals are the fairest in Australia. The Liberal Party is opposing them because the unfair boundaries and weighting of votes which kept them in office for so many years with only a minority of votes cast will be replaced by a truly democratic system.

"Dr. Tonkin considers anything which does not favour the Liberal Party is a gerrymander. Previous Liberal Governments constantly redistributed electoral boundaries to unfairly weight votes cast in areas where its support was concentrated.

"Anything which gives completely even and independent distribution of seats on an equality of votes basis they see as a gerrymander because they see that as not giving them a weighted preference.

"What Dr. Tonkin says is sheer hypocrisy. He is complaining that he will not be able to win when he hasn't got the support of the people.

"His remarks are very strange because for 27 of the 33 years of Liberal Government in South Australia, the Liberals had a gross minority of the votes but were still in Government. That state of affairs was maintained and supported at the polls by Dr. Tonkin.

To call this system, which is prescribed by the United States Supreme Court and which has been advocated by all political observers, some kind of electoral manipulation simply means that the Liberal Party considers that if they don't have something weighted in their favour, it isn't fair.



# STATEMENT

from the Premier

Date... October 1, 1975.

Embargo.....

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

## ELECTORAL REFORM.

Liberal Party claims that the Government's electoral reforms are an attempted gerrymander show the hypocrisy and selfishness of Liberal policies, the Premier, Mr. Dunstan, said today.

"The changes which I have introduced ensure that the basic principle of democracy - one vote, one value - is permanently written into the South Australian Consitution", Mr. Dunstan said.

"It is clear to any objective person that the proposals are the fairest in Australia. The Liberal Party is opposing them because the unfair boundaries and weighting of votes which kept them in office for so many years with only a minority of votes cast will be replaced by a truly democratic system.

"Dr. Tonkin considers anything which does not favour the Liberal Party is a gerrymander. Previous Liberal Governments constantly redistributed electoral boundaries to unfairly weight votes cast in areas where its support was concentrated.

"Anything which gives completely even and independent distribution of seats on an equality of votes basis they see as a gerrymander because they see that as not giving them a weighted preference.

"What Dr. Tonkin says is sheer hypocrisy. He is complaining that he will not be able to win when he hasn't got the support of the people.

"His remarks are very strange because for 27 of the 33 years of Liberal Government in South Australia, the Liberals had a gross minority of the votes but were still in Government. That state of affairs was maintained and supported at the polls by Dr. Tonkin.

To call this system, which is prescribed by the United States Supreme Court and which has been advocated by all political observers, some kind of electoral manipulation simply means that the Liberal Party considers that if they don't have something weighted in their favour, it isn't fair.