

FOR PRESS :

MEETING OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LIBERAL
SENATORS AND MEMBERS

Statement by the Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. R.G. Menzies

I have this afternoon been interviewed by South Australian Liberal Senators and Members. Those present were :

Mr. Downer, Senators Buttfield, Hannaford and Laught
Sir John McLeay, Messrs. Kelly, Forbes and Wilson.

Meetings of this kind are by no means infrequent. My South Australian colleagues have at all times actively presented the problems affecting their own State.

I have informed them that on Monday next I will be attending a Conference with the representatives of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia in relation to the proposed Chowilla Dam. It will be remembered that the economic value of the proposed dam having been established, I undertook on behalf of the Commonwealth Government that we would find a quarter of the cost, following the pattern previously established in relation to other River Murray works. There have been some delays, but I am hoping very much that we will be able to achieve finality on Monday. It is indeed important that we should, since this additional water storage is of vital importance to South Australia. A deficiency of water is South Australia's greatest natural disability, and my Government has for a long time been ready and anxious to help to repair that deficiency.

While Sir Thomas Playford is here for the Conference, I will of course take the opportunity of discussing with him other outstanding South Australian requests in order that I may not only more fully inform myself on the facts, but also that I may learn of the order of priority that attaches to these various proposals.

CANBERRA,

13th November, 1962.