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SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER,
THE HON. E.G. WHITLAM, Q.C., M.P.,
TO THE 1975 ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION,
OF THE A.L.P. SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH,
ADELAIDE, SUNDAY 15 JUNE 1975

FOR MANY YEARS I HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE OF ADDRESSING YOUR ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION. IT IS NOT A PLEASURE I WOULD READILY FORGO. SOUTH AUSTRALIA IS THE STATE THAT BEST EXEMPLIFIES THE SUCCESS OF LABOR'S POLICIES. IT'S HERE IN THIS PROGRESSIVE AND ENLIGHTENED STATE THAT WE SEE THE REAL FRUITS OF A GREAT LABOR PARTNERSHIP. IT'S A PARTNERSHIP THAT INVOLVES ALL OF US - OUR PARTY, YOUR BRANCH, DON DUNSTAN'S GOVERNMENT, MY GOVERNMENT, OUR OFFICIALS, OUR RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS. YESTERDAY IN SYDNEY I HAD SOMETHING TO SAY TO THE NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH ABOUT THE STATE GOVERNMENT'S OBSTRUCTION AND THE COST OF THAT OBSTRUCTION TO THE PEOPLE OF NEW SOUTH WALES - A COST MEASURED IN POOR SOCIAL PLANNING AND DETERIORATING PUBLIC SERVICES. HERE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA WE CAN SEE THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN. WE CAN SEE WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED BY READY COOPERATION BETWEEN THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE STATES.

SINCE I LAST SPOKE TO YOU THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS MADE GREAT PROGRESS WITH ITS PLANS FOR A BETTER AND FAIRER SOCIETY. I DON'T WANT TO GLOSS OVER OUR DIFFICULTIES, BUT EQUALLY THERE IS NO POINT IN UNDERRATING OUR SUCCESSES. I WAS TAKEN TO TASK IN THE PRESS THE OTHER DAY FOR POINTING TO THE REAL GAINS IN INCOMES MADE BY EMPLOYEES UNDER A LABOR GOVERNMENT. NO ONE SUPPOSES THAT MONEY INCOMES ARE ALL THAT MATTER IN DETERMINING LIVING STANDARDS - LEAST OF ALL WOULD A LABOR GOVERNMENT SUBSCRIBE TO THAT VIEW. BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT UNDER LABOR THE REAL GAINS IN PERSONAL INCOME HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIAL - MORE THAN 7 PERCENT SINCE WE CAME TO OFFICE. PENSIONERS AND THOSE MOST IN NEED HAVE HAD BIGGER GAINS IN THEIR REAL INCOMES THAN EVER BEFORE. A LABOR GOVERNMENT - A TRUE LABOR GOVERNMENT - NATURALLY TAKES PRIDE IN ANY REAL SHIFT IN WEALTH TOWARDS THOSE SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY WHO ARE MOST IN NEED. AND OF COURSE - ALONG WITH THIS IMPROVEMENT IN MONEY INCOMES - THERE HAS BEEN A VAST AND PERMANENT EXTENSION OF THE RANGE OF SERVICES AND OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO ALL AUSTRALIANS - THE SORT OF OPPORTUNITIES THAT MAKE FOR A GENUINELY FAIR SOCIETY, FOR TRUE SOCIAL EQUITY.

WE WOULDN'T BE HUMAN IF WE WEREN'T WORRIED BY THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WE SHARE WITH ALL OTHER COMPARABLE COUNTRIES. IT IS NO EASY TASK TO FRAME A NATIONAL BUDGET WHILE THESE PROBLEMS CONTINUE. RECENTLY I HAVE DRAWN ATTENTION TO THE SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT ALREADY APPARENT IN THE ECONOMY - THE UPTURN IN THE DEMAND FOR HOUSING, THE CONTINUING FALL IN UNEMPLOYMENT, THE GROWTH IN CONSUMER DEMAND. WHAT WE ARE DETERMINED TO DO IN OUR EFFORTS TO BEAT INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT IS PROTECT THOSE WHO MOST NEED PROTECTION. A LABOR GOVERNMENT IS ESSENTIALLY A GOVERNMENT THAT CARES FOR PEOPLE - ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO STAND IN GREATEST NEED. THIS HAS BEEN THE THEME OF ALL OUR EFFORTS, ALL OUR MEASURES, ALL OUR PRIORITIES. WE'LL STAND BY THAT. IT'S ALL TOO EASY TO BE DISHEARTENED BY THE PROBLEMS WE FACE. THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME LABOR HAS BEEN IN POWER IN A TIME OF INTERNATIONAL CRISIS. THIRTEEN MONTHS AGO WE FOUGHT AN ELECTION IN A TIME OF IMMENSE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTY; WE WON THAT ELECTION; WE CAN WIN AGAIN. I CANNOT STRESS TOO OFTEN THE BASIC STRENGTH OF THE ECONOMY, THE STRENGTH AND ABUNDANCE OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES, THE IMMENSE GOODWILL WE ENJOY AROUND THE WORLD.

IN PUSHING AHEAD WITH OUR PROGRAMS WE NEED THE COOPERATION OF THE STATES. THIS WEEK, AS YOU KNOW, I SHALL BE MEETING DON DUNSTAN AND THE OTHER PREMIERS IN CANBERRA AT THE PREMIERS' CONFERENCE. I DON'T WANT TO PREJUDGE THE OUTCOME OF OUR TALKS.

BUT THE POINT TO REMEMBER IN THIS CONTEXT IS JUST HOW MUCH THEY CAN SAVE, HOW MUCH THEY CAN EASE THEIR FINANCIAL BURDENS, BY COOPERATING WITH THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IN ITS SOCIAL PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES. THAT IS WHAT THE LABOR GOVERNMENT HAS DONE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF KNUCKLING UNDER OR GIVING WAY TO CANBERRA. IT'S A MATTER OF GETTING TOGETHER - OF HEALTHY NEGOTIATION, OF READY COOPERATION IN A SPIRIT OF TRUST AND GOODWILL.

THERE ARE TWO PRINCIPAL BURDENS ON ALL STATE BUDGETS - RAILWAYS AND HOSPITALS. OUR POLICIES ARE DESIGNED TO RELIEVE THOSE BURDENS. IT'S WORTH REMEMBERING THAT MEDIBANK, FOR EXAMPLE, INVOLVES MUCH MORE THAN FREE MEDICAL INSURANCE. IT MEANS A NEW DEAL FOR STATE HOSPITAL FINANCES. OFFICIALS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN WORKING STEADILY TOWARDS THIS AGREEMENT SINCE NEGOTIATIONS STARTED IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR. THE AGREEMENT IS NOW READY FOR SIGNING. IT MEANS THAT THE NET COST OF OPERATING SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC HOSPITALS WILL BE SHARED ON A 50-50 BASIS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. I DON'T HAVE TO REMIND YOU OF THE BENEFITS TO THE PUBLIC OF THE HOSPITAL SIDE OF MEDIBANK - FREE STANDARD WARD TREATMENT, FREE OUTPATIENT SERVICES, LOWER HOSPITAL CHARGES FOR INTERMEDIATE AND PRIVATE WARDS, AN ADDITIONAL \$16 A DAY IN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS TO PRIVATE HOSPITALS FOR THEIR PATIENTS.

THOSE ARE BENEFITS FOR PATIENTS, FOR THE PEOPLE. THE IMPORTANT THING FOR THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IS A SAVING OF \$28 MILLION A YEAR UNDER THE MEDIBANK HOSPITAL ARRANGEMENTS, MONEY WHICH THE STATE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO SPEND IN ANY AREA OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY. ONLY ONE OTHER STATE - TASMANIA - WILL BE INTRODUCING THE MEDIBANK HOSPITAL ARRANGEMENTS FROM 1 JULY. ALL THE ANTI-LABOR STATES HAVE DITHERED AND DELAYED - AT GREAT COST TO THEIR STATE BUDGETS AND AT GREAT COST TO THE WELFARE OF THEIR CITIZENS.

THE OTHER AREA WHERE WE ARE EASING SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S FINANCIAL BURDENS IS RAILWAYS. THIS HAS BEEN A GREAT YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENT AND INNOVATION FOR THE RAILWAYS IN AUSTRALIA, BUT IT HAS BEEN A TIME OF SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA. ONE OF MY FIRST ACTS AS PRIME MINISTER WAS TO WRITE TO DON DUNSTAN SEEKING DISCUSSIONS ON OUR OFFER TO ACCEPT A TRANSFER OF THE STATE RAILWAYS TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT. THAT OFFER WAS MADE IN MY 1972 POLICY SPEECH. WE MADE RAPID PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS. THE PREMIER AND I SIGNED AN AGREEMENT ON 21 MAY TO TRANSFER THE NON-METROPOLITAN RAILWAYS OF THIS STATE, AND THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION HAS ^{BEEN} PASSED ~~THE~~ HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. THERE WILL BE A NET FINANCIAL BENEFIT TO THE STATE'S REVENUE OF \$10 MILLION TO BE PAID BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ON OR BEFORE 1 JULY. SOUTH AUSTRALIA WILL BE RELIEVED OF CAPITAL DEBTS ON HER TRANSFERRED RAILWAYS. SOUTH AUSTRALIA WILL HAVE A BETTER RAILWAY SYSTEM. THE RIGHTS AND EMPLOYMENT OF EVERY RAILWAY EMPLOYEE WILL BE PRESERVED.

THERE IS MORE TO TELL YOU ABOUT RAILWAYS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AND I SHALL RETURN TO IT IN A MOMENT, BUT THE POINT I MAKE IS THIS: IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, WE HAVE HELPED TO RELIEVE THE STATE GOVERNMENT OF TWO OF ITS TRADITIONAL BURDENS. AND REMEMBER THAT WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR RAILWAYS AND HOSPITALS THIS YEAR WE HAVE ALREADY DONE FOR WELFARE HOUSING AND UNIVERSITIES. AT THE PREMIERS' CONFERENCE A YEAR AGO WE GAVE THE STATES A VIRTUAL BLANK CHEQUE FOR THEIR WELFARE HOUSING NEEDS. THIS RESPONSIBILITY IS NOW SHOULDERED ENTIRELY BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT. AT THE JUNE 1974 PREMIERS' CONFERENCE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA WAS ADVANCED \$20 MILLION FOR THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HOUSING TRUST IN 1974-75 AND \$18 MILLION FOR LENDING TO MEANS TESTED APPLICANTS FOR HOUSING LOANS THROUGH THE HOME BUILDERS' ACCOUNT UNDER THE 1973 HOUSING AGREEMENT. IN ADDITION, UNIVERSITIES, TEACHERS COLLEGES AND ADVANCED EDUCATION UNDER MY GOVERNMENT ARE NOW ALMOST ENTIRELY COMMONWEALTH RESPONSIBILITIES. WE HAVE BEEN OVERWHELMINGLY GENEROUS IN FUNDING THEM, AS WE HAVE WITH EDUCATION OF EVERY KIND. I NOTICED IN THE "ADVERTISER" THIS WEEK THE PLAN FOR A NEW TERTIARY EDUCATION CENTRE ON THE SITE OF THE EAST END MARKET. IT'S A SUPERB SCHEME INCORPORATING THE COLLEGE OF ADVANCED EDUCATION AND THE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY. IT WAS ONLY WELL DOWN IN THE REPORT THAT I READ THAT THIS WAS BEING FINANCED THROUGH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES - THE UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION AND THE COMMISSION ON ADVANCED EDUCATION - IN COOPERATION WITH THE STATE GOVERNMENT.

LET ME DEAL WITH ANOTHER AREA WHERE SOUTH AUSTRALIA HAS SHOWN HOW THE STATES CAN WORK IN COOPERATION WITH THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT - WHERE REAL PROGRESS IS POSSIBLE AND REAL BENEFITS CAN ACCRUE TO THE PEOPLE. TWO MONTHS AGO I HAD THE PLEASURE OF OPENING THE FIRST HOME SITES PROVIDED BY THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LAND COMMISSION AT HAPPY VALLEY. SOUTH AUSTRALIA WAS THE FIRST STATE TO RESPOND TO THE PROPOSALS MY GOVERNMENT MADE FOR LAND COMMISSIONS. OTHER STATES HAVE FOLLOWED SUIT WITH VARYING DEGREES OF ENTHUSIASM BUT IT WAS SOUTH AUSTRALIA THAT SHOWED THE WAY. IT'S VERY OBVIOUS WHY THIS COOPERATION WAS NEEDED IN TACKLING THE PROBLEM OF LAND PRICES - THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS THE NECESSARY FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND THE STATE GOVERNMENTS HAVE A JURISDICTION IN LAND MATTERS WHICH MY GOVERNMENT DOES NOT. WE HAVE SOUGHT TO BRING TOGETHER FEDERAL FINANCES AND STATE POWERS TO REMOVE THE EVIL OF SPIRALLING LAND PRICES - AND IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN DOING SO. THE PRICE OF LAND IS THE SINGLE LARGEST COMPONENT IN THE COST OF A HOME. OUR LAND COMMISSION PROGRAM OPERATES ON A VERY SIMPLE AND FUNDAMENTAL PLANNING PRINCIPLE - ADEQUATE LAND SUPPLY IS NECESSARY TO PREVENT LAND PRICE INCREASES AT TIMES OF HIGH DEMAND. SOUTH AUSTRALIA HAS COOPERATED IN OUR SCHEME FROM THE START. BLOCKS OF LAND ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE LAND COMMISSION FOR ABOUT \$1,000 LESS THAN COMPARABLE BLOCKS IN OTHER PARTS OF ADELAIDE.

I DON'T THINK ANYONE WOULD ARGUE THAT RAPID URBANISATION HAS BROUGHT MANY SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ILLS TO OUR CITIES. IT'S BEEN ONE OF THE GREAT POSTWAR PROBLEMS IN EVERY DEVELOPED COUNTRY - BUT ESPECIALLY IN AUSTRALIA. TRANSPORT, SEWERAGE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES HAVE BEEN MADE MORE COSTLY AND DIFFICULT. INDUSTRIES HAVE MET WITH HIGHER COSTS. THE ENVIRONMENT HAS SUFFERED. AND PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS IN AUSTRALIA JUST HAVEN'T COPEd WITH THIS PROBLEM. THEY HAVEN'T TRIED. ~~THE~~

DON DUNSTAN'S GOVERNMENT AND MY GOVERNMENT HAVE INITIATED A SERIES OF POLICIES RELATING TO LAND USE AND LAND PRICES. THE OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN TO REDUCE THE CONSEQUENCES OF TOO RAPID URBANISATION. THIS YEAR THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ALLOCATED APPROXIMATELY \$26 MILLION TO THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LAND COMMISSION. BETWEEN ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN NOVEMBER 1973 AND JUNE 1974/1975 IT HAS PURCHASED 1226 HECTARES OF LAND WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE ADELAIDE METROPOLITAN AREA. THIS YEAR IT IS IMPLEMENTING A FURTHER PROGRAM TO ACQUIRE LAND FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND OPEN SPACES. THE COMMISSION HAS ENGAGED THE SERVICES OF PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANTS IN THE FIELDS OF PLANNING, ENGINEERING, SURVEYING AND VALUING. IT'S ALL PART OF A SCHEME TO BRING TOGETHER THE THREE TIERS OF GOVERNMENT AND INVOLVE LOCAL COMMUNITIES THEMSELVES IN SOLVING THIS PROBLEM. IT'S A MODEL OF WHAT CAN BE DONE TO IMPROVE OUR SURROUNDINGS AND MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR AUSTRALIANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

DON'T IMAGINE THAT LAND COMMISSIONS ARE ALL THAT CONCERN US IN THIS FIELD. IN MAKING AUSTRALIA A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN WE ARE JUST AS CONCERNED WITH RURAL AREAS. THE DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT DEALS AS MUCH WITH THE WELFARE OF REGIONS AS IT DOES WITH CITIES. LAST YEAR WE APPROVED THE FIRST DIRECT GRANTS EVER MADE BY AN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TO LOCAL COUNCILS - GRANTS TOTALLING \$56 MILLION THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA, \$4.7 MILLION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA. ALL BUT SEVEN OF THE 136 LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES IN THIS STATE RECEIVED A GRANT.

WE HAVE SAFEGUARDED THE NATIONAL ESTATE, THE UNIQUE AND BEAUTIFUL THINGS, NATURAL AND MAN-MADE, WORTH KEEPING IN OUR COUNTRY. IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA WORKS UNDER THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAM AMOUNTING TO \$886,000 WERE APPROVED EARLY THIS YEAR. WE ARE PROVIDING ASSISTANCE FOR ADELAIDE'S WATER TREATMENT SCHEME. WE ARE CATCHING UP FURTHER WITH THE SEWERAGE BACKLOG IN ADELAIDE. IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS PROVIDED \$5.7 MILLION TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA FOR THIS PURPOSE. WE HAVE GIVEN \$1¼ MILLION TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA TO DEVELOP LEISURE AND RECREATION FACILITIES. WE HAVE UNIQUE PLANS TO DEVELOP ANGLE PARK IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA AS A MODEL COMMUNITY, IN WHICH SCHOOLS, RECREATION AND HEALTH FACILITIES WILL BE COORDINATED AND PLANNED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE PEOPLE. WE HAVE ALLOCATED OVER \$3 MILLION FOR THE ANGLE PARK PROJECT.

OUR URBAN LOCAL ROADS PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF RESIDENTIAL STREETS AND WILL INCLUDE A NUMBER OF INNOVATIONS TO LIFT THE STANDARDS OF ROADS IN URBAN AND PROVINCIAL CENTRES. THIS YEAR AND IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WILL GRANT SOUTH AUSTRALIA A TOTAL OF \$102.71 MILLION FOR ROADS OF ALL KINDS. WE ARE GETTING ON WITH OUR PLANS FOR A NATIONAL HIGHWAYS SYSTEM LINKING ADELAIDE WITH PERTH, MELBOURNE AND THE NORTHERN TERRITORY. NO SERIOUS EFFORT WAS MADE BY PREVIOUS AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENTS TO DEVELOP A PROPER NATIONAL ROADS NETWORK. WE ARE THE FIRST GOVERNMENT TO GET ON WITH THE JOB AND WE'RE DOING IT BY COOPERATION WITH A LABOR GOVERNMENT IN THIS STATE. IT IS ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER - ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF A LABOR STATE, A LABOR GOVERNMENT SHOWING THE WAY. SOUTH AUSTRALIA HAS COOPERATED IN ALL OUR DISCUSSIONS ON URBAN ARTERIAL ROADS. IN ADDITION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA HAS READILY ENTERED INTO AGREEMENT WITH MY GOVERNMENT ON THE UPGRADING OF ADELAIDE'S PUBLIC TRANSPORT. HERE IN ADELAIDE YOU HAVE BETTER PUBLIC TRANSPORT THAN MOST STATES, BUT IT OUGHT TO BE BETTER STILL. IT WILL BE BETTER. TO DATE, URBAN TRANSPORT PROJECTS IN THIS STATE HAVE ATTRACTED MORE THAN \$15 MILLION IN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE.

IN THIS CONTEXT I TURN AGAIN TO THE RAILWAYS. MORE THAN ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT, THE LABOR GOVERNMENT HAS RECOGNISED THE NEED FOR A NATIONAL APPROACH TO THE RAILWAYS - THE NEED FOR A MODERN, EFFICIENT, NATIONAL RAILWAY SYSTEM. NO STATE WILL BENEFIT MORE FROM SUCH A SYSTEM THAN SOUTH AUSTRALIA - ITS TRADE, BOTH EAST AND WEST, WILL BE INVIGORATED AND STREAMLINED. I HAVE MENTIONED THE TRANSFER OF THE NON-METROPOLITAN SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RAILWAYS TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT. IT WAS THE FIRST STEP IN THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL RAIL SYSTEM WORTHY OF A GREAT CONTINENT. THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS, WHICH WE ARE SETTING UP UNDER NEW LEGISLATION, WILL HAVE THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONAL POWERS TO CONSOLIDATE THE OLD COMMONWEALTH RAILWAYS AND THE STATE RAILWAYS INTO A SINGLE SYSTEM, EQUIPPED WITH THE LATEST AND BEST ROLLING STOCK. WE HAVE ALREADY BEGUN WORK ON TWO IMPORTANT NEW RAIL LINKS IN THIS STATE. TWO MONTHS AGO I ATTENDED THE INAUGURATION OF THE TARCOOLA TO ALICE SPRINGS RAILWAY, THE LARGEST RAILWAY PROJECT IN AUSTRALIA FOR OVER HALF A CENTURY. THIS YEAR, TOO, WE HAVE BEGUN BUILDING THE STANDARD GAUGE RAILWAY BETWEEN ADELAIDE AND CRYSTAL BROOK, WHICH WILL REMOVE THE LAST BREAK OF GAUGE BETWEEN THE MAINLAND CAPITALS.

IN NO OTHER STATES HAS THERE BEEN SUCH A MAGNIFICENT AND SUSTAINED RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT. I COULD EXTEND THIS LIST WITHOUT DIFFICULTY - THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INSURANCE CORPORATION, THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HOUSING CORPORATION, THE LEGAL AID OFFICE, THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSION. WE CAN BE PROUD OF OUR RECORD. IT'S ALL BEEN ACHIEVED UNDER LABOR. IT COULD ONLY BE ACHIEVED UNDER LABOR. UNDER ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT THESE THINGS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE AND UNDER ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT THEY WOULD BE CUT BACK OR DISMANTLED.

WE HAVE ALL SEEN THE EVIDENCE OF OPPOSITION OBSTRUCTION IN THE PARLIAMENT, IN THE NON-LABOR STATES, IN THE COURTS. IT WAS MADE VERY OBVIOUS IN THEIR APPROACH TO THE RECENT REDISTRIBUTION - AND I KNOW ELECTORAL REFORM IS A MATTER OF VERY SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO THE PARTY IN THIS STATE. DON DUNSTAN HAS HAD A LONGER BATTLE THAN MOST OF US TO GET FAIR REPRESENTATION FOR THE PEOPLE. IN THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT WE ARE STILL FIGHTING THAT BATTLE. OUR REDISTRIBUTION WAS ACKNOWLEDGED TO BE THE FAIREST EVER PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT. IT WAS BASED ON OUR LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH ELECTORAL EQUALITY FOR EVERY AUSTRALIAN WHEREVER HE LIVED. THAT LEGISLATION WAS PASSED BY THE JOINT SITTING OF PARLIAMENT LAST YEAR; IT WAS ONE OF THE PROPOSALS ON WHICH THE DOUBLE DISSOLUTION WAS GRANTED; IT WAS SPECIFICALLY ENDORSED BY THE PEOPLE. YET THE LIBERALS, UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE COUNTRY PARTY, REJECTED THIS OVERDUE AND NECESSARY REDISTRIBUTION. THEY REJECTED IT EVEN IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA - A STATE WHERE THE COUNTRY PARTY HAS NO REPRESENTATION IN THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT.

I ASK YOU TO REMEMBER THAT THE CAMPAIGN OF
OBSTRUCTION GOES ON - THE CAMPAIGN OF OBSTRUCTION
WE FOUGHT AND DEFEATED AT THE NATIONAL ELECTION JUST
OVER A YEAR AGO. WE CAN WIN THIS BATTLE BY PROVING
THAT OUR MEASURES CAN WORK, THAT OUR REFORMS WILL BRING
TRUE AND LASTING BENEFIT TO THE PEOPLE. IN DOING SO
WE CAN POINT MOST PROMINENTLY TO THE AUSTRALIAN. WE CAN
SHOW THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE THAT WHAT ONE STATE CAN DO,
OTHER STATES CAN DO. AUSTRALIA CAN HAVE
BETTER HOSPITALS, CHEAPER TRANSPORT, MORE EFFICIENT
TRANSPORT, BETTER PLANNING AND MORE COLONIAL COMMERCE.
OTHER STATES CAN HAVE THE SAME. SO LET US KEEP ON WORKING
TOGETHER. THE GREAT THINGS WE HAVE DONE TOGETHER ARE BY FAR THE
MORE IMPORTANT - AND WILL BE DEFINITELY MORE ENDURING -
THAN THE DIFFICULTIES WE HAVE FACED FROM TIME TO TIME.
WE'LL BE REMEMBERED AND THANKED BY FUTURE GENERATIONS
IF WE STICK TO OUR GUNS, STAY TO THE GREAT TASKS WE
HAVE IN HAND, AND TAKE HEED FROM THE IMMENSE PROGRESS
WE HAVE ALREADY MADE - PARTICULARLY IN THIS STATE,
UNDER THIS STATE LABOR GOVERNMENT, AND A NATIONAL LABOR
GOVERNMENT WORKING TOGETHER IN HARMONY AND WITH TRUE
DETERMINATION.