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PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

TUESDAY, 16 JUNE, 1981

SIR THOMAS PLAYFORD

I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Sir Thomas Playford.

He was one of South Australia's greatest sons.

His term of office as Premier of South Australia for 26 years, from 1938 to 1965, stands as testimony to his greatness.

No Australian Premier - nor for that matter any Australian political leader - has served a longer term in office.

Sir Thomas Playford - grandson of a former Premier of the same name - led South Australia from its dependence upon rural industry to its emergence as an industrially-based State.

His vision, foresight, and commitment to Liberal principles wereresponsible for an outstanding period of growth.

I offer my deepest sympathy to his family.

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