

## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ELECTION

Statement by the Acting Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. J.D. Anthony C.H., M.P.

Counting so far in South Australia of the votes cast in the State Election yesterday provides little comfort for the Labor Party.

Although there has been a swing back from the vote given to the Liberal Party in 1979, the Liberals, led by Mr. Tonkin, have clearly attracted an increased core of support from which they will be able to mount a strong challenge to Labor at the next poll.

The election was fought very much on South Australian issues, as senior Labor figures have acknowledged. I have no doubt that attempts will be made by the Labor Party at Federal level to take credit for the result. It is clear, however, that South Australians have rejected Mr. Hayden's attempts to turn the poll into a test of the policies of the Commonwealth Government.

Mr. Tonkin has acknowledged that on present indications, he will not be able to form a Government. I very much regret that, because under his leadership for the past three years a new economic framework has been constructed in South Australia which would never have been possible in the previous years of Labor Government.

That framework has protected the State from the worst of many of the economic problems facing the world and Australia. Unless it is damaged by Mr. Bannon and his colleagues, it is a framework on which a stronger and more prosperous South Australia can be built. I believe Mr. Tonkin and all members of his Government deserve the thanks of South Australians for this achievement.

Canberra  
7 November 1982