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A.L.P. BROADCAST - 30TH JULY, 1962.

PRESENTED BY DON SUMERAN

Good Evening,

There have been a number of excuses propounded publicly for the Speaker in the House of Assembly, Mr. T.G. Stott M.P., anticipating that he will vote against the Labor Party's amendment to the Address in Reply and thereby save the Government on a no-confidence motion.

Let's examine Mr. Stott's position and the excuses which Government supporters have hastened to make for him.

After the last elections, when Mr. Stott accepted the invitation of the Liberal Party to take the Speaker's chair, he insisted that he would retain his independence and vote on measures on their merits. In reply to questions at Adelaide University, he said that if he did not consider that the Government was doing the right thing on any issue he would throw it out.

There has been no issue on which Mr. Stott has been more outspoken than that of the burdens placed on members of electors by increases in land tax - that there are many anomalies in the legislation, that the incidence of tax is unfair and that there should be a public inquiry into the matter. A deputation to the Premier, led by Mr. Stott, has demanded such an inquiry of the Premier and the Premier ~~and the Premier~~ has refused.

The Labor Party agrees that an enquiry is long overdue and pledges that it will act on the matter on taking office. Therefore to test the feeling of the House on the issue, the Labor Party has moved an amendment to the Address-in-reply regretting the failure to institute a public enquiry into land tax and calling for the setting up of the inquiry as a Royal Commission forthwith.

Now it is suggested that this is being unfair to Mr. Stott; that if the thing had been done in a way which would keep the Playford Government in office, he would vote for it, but since his vote for this amendment would turn the Playford Government out

of office, he won't do so.

Why won't he? If he is sincere about what he said in accepting the Speaker's office, then he will vote on the merits of the issue and since the Playford Government has not done the right thing about land tax and its refusal of his own requests have amply demonstrated that, then he ought on his own promises to turn it out and put in a government which will do what he has sought.

It is potently absurd to say that the Labor Party ought to have made its demand for a land tax enquiry by other means so as to avoid embarrassing the Government and Mr. Stott. The Government ought not to be in office anyway, representative as it is of only a small minority of the voters of this State and if he is sincere, Mr. Stott should stick to his public undertakings. His doing so should involve him in no embarrassment at all. His failure to vote in favour of the amendment could only show that he is motivated by a desire for personal position and prestige and that his public undertakings to vote for issues on their merits and to turn out the Government if it did not do the right thing on issues he favoured was so much windy peroriflage, so much shabby camouflage of the true position.

Goodnight