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5-KA BROADCAST - BY THE PREMIER (MR. DUNSTAN)

C.O. Theme - Opening and hold under for

ANN: This is a broadcast by the Premier of South Australia, Mr. Don Dunstan, on behalf of the Australian Labor Party.

GOOD EVENING: IN A FEW WEEKS TIME THE PEOPLE IN THE ADELAIDE METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA WILL VOTE ON WHETHER THEIR SHOPPING HOURS ARE TO BE EXTENDED TO 9 P.M. ON FRIDAY NIGHTS. IF A MAJORITY OF PEOPLE IN THE AREA VOTE FOR THIS CHANGE, IT WILL MEAN THAT PEOPLE WILL SHOP IN ADELAIDE FROM 9 A.M. TO 5.30 P.M. MONDAYS TO THURSDAYS, 9 A.M. TO 9 P.M. FRIDAYS, AND 8.35 A.M. TO 11.30 A.M. SATURDAYS.

THIS IS QUITE A CHANGE FOR THE AREA AND I BELIEVE IT IS ONE THAT SHOULD BE MADE. IT WILL ALLOW WORKING FAMILIES, ESPECIALLY, MUCH MORE TIME EACH WEEK TO DO THEIR WEEKLY SHOPPING, AND IT WILL CONSIDERABLY ENLIVEN SHOPPING DISTRICTS ON THE FRIDAY NIGHTS. IF THE REFERENDUM IS PASSED, ALL THOSE SHOPS WHICH CAN OPEN DURING THE DAY WILL BE ABLE TO OPEN ON FRIDAY EVENINGS, AND THAT INCLUDES BUTCHER SHOPS.

THEREFORE I WAS SURPRISED LAST NIGHT TO HEAR THE OPPOSITION IN PARLIAMENT URGE FOR A CHANGE TO THE REFERENDUM QUESTION. AS IT STANDS, THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS THAT ONLY ONE QUESTION SHOULD BE ASKED, AND THAT IS "ARE YOU IN FAVOUR OF SHOPS IN THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF GAWLER BEING PERMITTED TO REMAIN OPEN FOR TRADING UNTIL 9 P.M. FRIDAYS".

THE OPPOSITION, HOWEVER, WANTS TWO CHANGES. IT WANTS THE WHOLE STATE TO JOIN IN THE REFERENDUM VOTE - WHICH WOULD THEN MEAN THAT PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY WOULD BE ABLE TO DECIDE ON HOW THE CITY SHOPS - AND IT WANTS PEOPLE TO BE ABLE TO DECIDE ON WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE ABSOLUTELY UNRESTRICTED TRADING HOURS - WHICH VERY FEW PEOPLE HAVE ASKED FOR, AND WHICH WOULD MEAN THAT 24 HOUR, 7 DAYS A WEEK SHOPPING COULD APPLY. NO SHOP ASSISTANT, GARAGE WORKER, PARKING ATTENDANT, OR RETAIL STORE OFFICE WORKER COULD BE CERTAIN OF BEING ABLE TO SPEND A QUIET DAY ON SUNDAY.

IT WOULD MEAN FOR MANY OF THEM FULL SUNDAY TRADING. BUT IN ADDITION TO THE SERIOUS STEP BACKWARDS THIS WOULD MEAN IN WORKING CONDITIONS FOR THESE PEOPLE, THE ADDED DANGER TO THE WHOLE STATE IS THAT UNRESTRICTED TRADING COULD RADICALLY CHANGE THE COST STRUCTURE IN THE STATE SO THAT PRICES FOR RETAIL SERVICES WOULD RISE ASTRONOMICALLY. FOR INSTANCE, PEOPLE WORKING ALL DAY SATURDAY AND IN THE EVENINGS WOULD BE PAID TIME AND A QUARTER, OR TIME AND A HALF, WHILE PEOPLE WORKING ON SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS WOULD BE PAID DOUBLE TIME. IF SHOP KEEPERS HAD TO PAY SUCH EXTRA MONEY OUT, THEY'D HAVE TO GET IT FROM SOMEWHERE. AND THE SOMEWHERE WOULD BE FROM THE PUBLIC BUYING GOODS AT UNORTHODOX HOURS.

WHEN WE FOUGHT THE ELECTION TWO AND A HALF MONTHS AGO WE KNEW FROM INDUSTRY AND SHOP ASSISTANTS' REPRESENTATIONS THAT SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE TO REGULARIZE SHOPPING HOURS IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA AND KEEP DOWN PRICES. WE THEREFORE DECIDED THAT THE BUTCHERING AND BAKING HOURS SHOULD BE THOSE THAT APPLIED IN THE CENTRAL CITY AREAS, BUT THAT FRIDAY NIGHT TRADING AS EXPERIENCED IN THE OUTER METROPOLITAN DISTRICTS SHOULD REMAIN UNALTERED.

HOWEVER, IT HAS SINCE BECOME ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT THIS COURSE WAS PARTICULARLY UNFAIR TO SHOP OWNERS CLOSE TO THE OUTER METROPOLITAN AREAS WHO NEVERTHELESS HAD TO STICK TO EARLY CLOSING ON FRIDAYS. ACCORDINGLY, THE COURSE THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOW DECIDED UPON IS TO PUT THE WHOLE ISSUE OF FRIDAY NIGHT TRADING IN THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE, WHO WILL BE AFFECTED. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE FAIREST AND MOST PROPER THING TO DO.

IN ADDITION, WE HAVE ENLARGED THE LIST OF GOODS WHICH CAN BE SOLD AT ANY TIME IN DELICATESSANS & CHEMIST SHOPS, SO THAT MANY ANOMALIES WHICH WERE ONCE SO TRYING TO FAMILY PEOPLE AND SHOP OWNERS WILL NOT EXIST.

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AND SO, ALTOGETHER, THE COURSE THAT THE GOVERNMENT
HAS CHARTERED AHEAD IS CLEAR: WE ARE TRYING TO GET
UNIFORMITY AND REASONABLE PROVISIONS IN TRADING TO GIVE
FACILITY TO PEOPLE TO DO THEIR SHOPPING WHEN THEY NEED TO.
THAT IS A CLEAR COURSE. WE BELIEVE THE PEOPLE OF ADELAIDE
WANT THIS KIND OF ACTION AND WILL SUPPORT US IN IT.

GOOD NIGHT.