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Title:
Press statement - Education crisis

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PRESS STATEMENT.

FROM: LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (MR. DUNSTAN).

SUBJECT: EDUCATION CRISIS.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Dunstan) said today that the Commonwealth Government was consistently starving the States of the finances necessary for education.

Mr. Dunstan was speaking during a tour of the Spencer Gulf towns at the weekend, when he visited Port Lincoln, Whyalla and Port Augusta. He said that a result of this "starving" by the Federal Government was becoming increasingly evident in SA country areas.

"Every State in the Commonwealth has protested bitterly about the Federal Government taking far more than its share of income tax," he said, "and depriving them of the means to overcome the education crisis."

Mr. Dunstan said, however, that in the situation was worse in SA because the State Government was "salting" away monies that it had promised before the election to spend on public buildings. He said that for the 1969-70 financial the Hall Government was spending from its own funds \$10.47m. on new school buildings, compared with \$13.27m. it spent in the previous financial year.

"However, it is also reducing the amount spent on new school buildings and additions to present school buildings by \$1.4m," he said.

"This in fact means that the cut in expenditure on schools will be about \$4m."

Mr. Dunstan said that it was scandalous for the Hall Government to reduce expenditure on school buildings when there was obviously money available, and still so many problems in schools throughout the State.

"I ask you to look at the schools your children are attending," he said, "and then decide for yourselves whether they could do with this extra money."

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