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Title:

Statement: January Unemployment Figures

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STATEMENT FROM THE MINISTER OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY, MR. McKEE.

JANUARY UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES.

14/2/72.

We predicted six months ago that unless the Commonwealth Government took immediate steps to boost the economy the unemployment situation could only deteriorate.

Now we are in the appalling situation of having 130,000 out of work throughout the country with nearly 14,000 in South Australia and the Northern Territory alone.

This is the highest number of unemployed in the State since the Second World War and there are no apparent signs of future improvement. South Australia's figures do not include retrenchments made by G.M.H. and Chryslers in the last two weeks.

We hope the Prime Minister will put forward some major policies to stimulate the economy at the Premiers' Conference today.

Statements have been made that the large number of unemployed at present was mainly due to the number of school leavers seeking employment, but practically all of the increase of 1400 people registered for employment in South Australia last month was because of the increase in numbers of adult unemployed.

There was in fact a slight decrease in the number of junior females unemployed compared with the December figures.

The numbers of people receiving unemployment benefits are almost double the number at the same time last year.
