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ALP Broadcast from Station 5KA presented by Don Dunstan, Member for Norwood

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A.L.P. BROADCAST - MONDAY 11TH DEC. 1961

PRESENTED BY DON DONSTAN - MEMBER FOR NORWOOD

Good Evening,

The Federal elections held last Saturday have been a great vindication of the policies and platforms of the Australian Labor Party.

The A.L.P. had a detailed constructive and practical policy. The Governments only apparent policy was the repeated ~~XXXXXXXX~~ appearance of Mr. Menzies on television saying in tones of injured dignity "How could anyone elect anyone other than me to lead Australia?" Well he has had his answer. If his Government does retain office - and the result is very much in doubt - it will be with a very bare margin of support in the House of Representatives and with an undoubtedly hostile Senate.

There has been a great swing to support the Labor Party - the biggest to occur since the 1943 election when Mr. Menzies, in Australia's hour of greatest peril had already proved himself incompetent to lead this nation and had been forced to resign by his own party.

Mr. Menzies, of course, thought himself safe from the people's wrath, and that he had a substantial bulwark to protect him in the existence of his electoral allies, the D.L.P.

These are people who say they believe in Labor policies. They say they believe in just wages, in greater social service benefits for the needy, in public development in strong trades unions. So they say, "please vote for us. We know that none of our candidates will get elected, but let us take your votes and use the preferential voting system to give them to the Liberals so that the things we say we believe won't get done." Mr. Menzies was of course happy to have them do it. He was happy to create unemployment, depress family incomes, reduce social services, and junket about advocating foreign policies so reactionary that he made the English conservatives look like vermilion-hued radicals by comparison.

But his illusions are now shattered. The D.L.P. has not been able to do its job of ensuring Mr. Menzies continuance in office in the way it set out to do. What it has done is to expose quite clearly just what it was about. The jubilant cries of D.L.P. officials on Saturday night that they had been responsible for the re-election of the Menzies Government were unguarded and in the light of the present counting in the election premature, but they were very revealing. They showed that the D.L.P. were quite happy to retain the unemployment and misery which the Menzies Government has produced for so many families.

But whatever the ultimate outcome in the Federal elections, the prospects for the State elections next March are brighter now than they have been for thirty years. On last Saturday's figures, if those figures are repeated at the State elections, Labor would win 5 seats including the seats of the Ministers for Works and Education. Most people in S.A. have been sold the Playford myth so solidly that they believe that the Playford Government gets a better vote in State elections than do their party colleagues in Federal elections. That is not so. Overall, Labor does about 1%-2% better in State polls than in Federal polls. It would appear that even the gerrymander may not protect Sir. Thomas and cohorts of supine noddors next March.