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A.L.P. BROADCAST
BY DON DUNSTAN M.P. 30/9/63.

Good Evening,

The Stirling by-election has highlighted the tragedy of the decay of country communities under the Playford Administration.

The small industries which provided a diversity of employment in earlier years have closed down. In consequence, there has been less demand for shops and services. The children from the area have no adequate job opportunities and come to the city in search of employment or higher education. Families are split up and the final result is that towns which should be flourishing are now refuges for those who have reached retirement age.

Let's take the Strathalbyn-Milang area for example. Strathalbyn once boasted a number of small works - a tannery and a butter factory, Milang a butter factory. These are all closed down. In Strathalbyn and Milang a number of businesses have closed their doors recently, or are about to do so. Parents both in the town and in the surrounding farm lands are at their wits' end to know how to provide for their children's future. Forty children will leave Strathalbyn High School at the end of the year and very few of them have a foreseeable future in the district.

For years the district has failed to retain its natural increase. Population has remained static in numbers and aging in composition over the last ten years.

There are few opportunities available for young people in farming in that district. Most farms in the area provide only a one-family living area. If there are two or three children in a family only one of them can carry on the family farm. The others must go elsewhere. Most families are not in a financial position to set up these others on farms. What is needed is Government action for closer settlement. But the Playford Government does not believe in taking action for closer settlement. There has been not one penny spent to repurchase lands for closer settlement under the scheme provided in Part X of the Crown Lands Act in the last 10 years. When an area

suitable for irrigation near Milang would have provided eight or ten good dairy farms for young settlers became available recently the Government took no action and the whole property passed to the large Kildan interest.

What could be done? Under Labor industries would be established by community action. If freight concessions were given on the railways as they are in other States there would be no cost disadvantages in establishing specialised craft industries in country areas. Lands would be repurchased for closer settlement. Education would be given to children to the full standard needed for University entrance. These activities in themselves would bring an added need for shops and services. The stimulus to the district would have a cumulative effect.

Why want the Playford Government do these things? Because to get country towns moving again would mean that with the establishment of industries industrial workers, a majority of whom traditionally vote Labor, would be taken into areas which, under the present rigged electoral system the Playford Government regards as its rotten boroughs - the sparsely populated electorates on which it depends to be returned to office with a minority of votes and a majority of seats.

The only way to end the stagnation in Stirling is to oust the Playford Government by electing Alan Stevens next Saturday.

Goodnight.