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Press release - LCL achieved nothing

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PRESS RELEASE BY THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, HON. DON DUNSTAN,
Q.C., M.P., ON MEETING OF A.L.P. AT MOUNT GAMBIER,
11.10.68.

The L.C.L. Government has achieved nothing in the six months of its office except to incur the wrath of more citizens of South Australia, the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Dunstan, told a special meeting of the A.L.P. in Mount Gambier last night. "Yet at the time of the election the L.C.L. told the people that it would 'get South Australia moving'."

"There is little evidence that the L.C.L. Government has done anything to help South Australia or the people of this State", Mr. Dunstan said. "The only real measures introduced by the L.C.L. have been regular Government business and even these they have not handled efficiently."

"Electoral redistribution. While stating 'reform' was needed in South Australia, Mr. Hall and the Government continued to filibuster and procrastinate. Finally they introduced a Bill to have 47 members in the House of Assembly. Yet even this Bill introduced after years of prompting by the Labor Party, contains a series of inconsistencies which need amendment. It could be an improvement but even so we still have fewer members of Parliament than any other State. In fact, more than 20 less than Queensland - a State of comparable size.

"Close examination of the Loan Estimates, one of the annual monetary measures of the Government reveals the shabby and base politicking of the L.C.L. when it was in Opposition. We were charged with impropriety for using Loan funds for Capital works which had not previously been charged to the Loan Account but to the Revenue Account. Yet this year's Loan Estimates reveal that the Treasurer has perpetuated the charging to the Loan Account of works that the Labor Government had charged in the same way. Now they have gone even further. They have borrowed money against a Revenue deficit.

"The Budget introduced by the L.C.L. Government was a complete repudiation of things it said when in Opposition,

and was a deflationary Budget when there is a need in South Australia for a stimulus to the economy. The taxation measures introduced are the most severe since the 1930's. The Government announced seven new taxes apart from the new Racing taxes, all but one of which are imposts which either inhibit business or hit those who can least afford to pay it.

"The M.A.T.S. Report is another of the Government's releases which, if it is effected, will hit all South Australians, but country people especially hard. Under this report, there is a 190% difference between the expenditure increases in the country and the city, very strongly favoring the city. The M.A.T.S. Report and the L.C.L. Government will take away from country people a large part of their entitlement to road funds and will increase their taxes as well. Added to this, there is the extension of the road maintenance taxes to boost construction costs.

"This week in Parliament there was a division in the House on the question of excess water charges. The Labor Party tried to prevent the imposition of these charges but was defeated on the casting vote of the Speaker. All Government Members supported the charges which will hit country districts where water is used in large quantities. The L.C.L. claims it protects country interests, and then does this. It is a direct hit at country areas where water is needed for irrigation and other important uses.

"While the L.C.L. Government has not done much to boost South Australia, it has certainly confused a lot more people with its failure to act and its inability to handle normal Government business and routine matters correctly," Mr. Dunstan said.

"Other instances of its utter incompetence are connected with such things as, Chowilla Dam, Employment, Building, Harbor Development, Festival Hall, Education, Fisheries, Aboriginal Affairs, Industrial Development, Social Services, Housing, West-lakes Scheme, Hospitals and many other areas."

Mr. Dunstan said:- "One of the most common mistakes made by Members of the L.C.L. Government is their inability to concur in public statements. The fickle mind of the Government is quite obvious from a long list of inconsistencies and contradictions it has presented to the public of South Australia."
