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PRESS STATEMENT BY GEOFF VIRGO M.P. ON M.A.T.S.  
PLAN. FOR MESSENGER PRESS. 25th. November. 1968.

Actions by the Premier mean that there will be no further debate on the M.A.T.S. plan in the current session of State Parliament, Mr. Geoff Virgo, (A.L.P. Edwardstown) said this week.

"This is because the Premier last week insisted on moving a resolution stating that for the remainder of the session, Government business would take precedence over all other business except questions.

"Members of the Opposition urged the Premier to allow time for the M.A.T.S. motion currently before the House, to be fully discussed, but this was refused. Instead he pushed through his motion which denies further debate on the multi-million dollar proposal."

Mr. Virgo said: "This attitude by the Premier, makes mockery of his previous statements that the report has been released to enable the people of South Australia to discuss it and offer their views to the Government.

"Surely the Premier realises the magnitude of the M.A.T.S. plan and the thousands of people it will affect," Mr. Virgo asked.

"Under these circumstances, how can the Government ascertain the views and opinions of the public?"

Mr. Virgo pointed out the Government claim that only 3,000 properties are affected by the plan.

"They know this is wrong," Mr. Virgo stressed, "and that in addition to these 3,000 acquired properties, another 10,000 to 15,000 will be affected because of their proximity to freeways and rail rapid transit.

"Yet these people will not receive any compensation despite the fact that their homes will be seriously devalued and their lives affected.

Mr. Virgo said the Premier had admitted that no member of the Government had attended any of the public meetings held to discuss the M.A.T.S. plan.

He said: "Nearly every meeting held has demanded the withdrawal of the report, yet Transport Minister Hill says this is an 'incomprehensible suggestion'. He apparently knows the will of the people without conferring with them.

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