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Title:
Press statement - Steel industry

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PRESS STATEMENT: 18th AUGUST, 1970.

FROM: PREMIER (MR. DUNSTAN)

SUBJECT: STEEL INDUSTRY.

The Premier (Mr. Dunstan) today said SA had the potential to become the major steel producing State in Australia, and suggested Elizabeth as an ideal site for steel works. He was commenting on a suggestion by the WA Minister of Development (Mr. Court) that WA, Queensland and NSW should combine their iron ore and coking coal resources to make Australia one of the world's biggest steel producers.

"Basically Mr. Court's idea is sound, but I am amazed at his lack of appreciation of the role that this State is playing in steel industry.

"SA, because of its central position, would have to be included in any discussions aimed at combining the nation's steel-making resources," he said.

"The economics of Australia's steel industry is at present complicated by the fact that WA's iron ore deposits are remote from the coking coal deposits in Queensland and NSW.

"Production of steel from the combined use of these basic materials would mean either the large scale movement of iron eastward, or coal westward.

"Because of the vast amount of wastage material in iron ore, studies have shown that Adelaide would be a suitable, central location for steel works.

"It is close to the reserves of dolomite and limestone necessary for steel production, and at Elizabeth has the necessary land and workforce essential for the establishment of steelworks.

"Any discussions on a major national steelmaking venture which ignored the role that SA had to play would not be in Australia's interests."

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