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Title:
Press statement - Parliamentary Salaries

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10/9/71.

It was not true that the Tribunal determination governing parliamentary salaries in South Australia was to have been in force until next year, the Premier (Mr. Dunstan) said today. He was commenting on statements by the Liberal Party Whip in the House of Assembly, Mr. Evans, and a News editorial on the new salaries determination.

Mr. Dunstan said that he was making his statement as Minister responsible for the administration of the Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances Act and after representations had been made to him by some members of the Tribunal over newspaper reports concerning the Tribunal's activities.

"There appears to have been a considerable amount of misunderstanding about this matter", the Premier said.

"The Tribunal is required by the Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances Act to meet at least once every three years.

"It may meet more regularly than this.

"The statutory requirement is for a maximum, not a minimum, period.

"In fact the previous determination did not specify any period for which it should apply.

"The new one lays down that it should run for a year - and possibly longer than that.

"Nor is it true to say that it is an 'agreement'.

"Indeed, the whole point of having parliamentary salaries fixed by a Tribunal is to remove from parliamentarians the quite inappropriate function of deciding their own pay.

"Parliamentarians - and anyone else - may give evidence to the Tribunal.

"It is left entirely to the Tribunal after considering the evidence to then fix the appropriate pay scales.

"It is not within the power of parliament or the Government to vary the determination made.

"As Treasurer I am required to receive the determination and apply it.

"That is the limit of my powers."

Mr. Dunstan said that the Tribunal had previously decided that salaries should be comparable with those granted for similar work in other occupational categories.

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"Parliamentary salaries were referred to the Tribunal before the maximum period had been completed, because if there had been no change in salaries now, a far larger call on the Treasury would have had to be made next year."
