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Title:

Speech at the opening of the Marion Group of Industries

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN, AT THE OPENING OF THE MARION
GROUP OF INDUSTRIES ON 1ST JULY, 1971.

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to open what is, in effect, an industrial supermarket, the first section of a quarter of a million industrial complex.

The development of 17 factories at rentals within the reach of smaller industries will be a valuable fillip to existing facilities for light industry in the State, particularly the fast developing southern part of the metropolitan area.

One novel feature which I think merits special mention is that a feature of the planning has been provision of communal waste disposal facilities designed to keep pollution at a low level.

South Australia's future depends to a significant degree on the development, expansion and promotion of secondary industry - and particularly of industries based on high skills and technical proficiency.

Our economy has traditionally depended very largely on a few large industries and on the production of consumer durables, and while this has meant that South Australia is a central part of the national industrial structure it has also meant that this State is peculiarly vulnerable to economic fluctuations experienced elsewhere in Australia.

We as a Government are fostering industrial development policies with the aim of bringing the State to the stage where its manufacturing industries are sufficiently broadly based that our economic well-being will not be affected by such down-turns in economic conditions in other States.

The Government has already implemented the first stages of this wide ranging programme.

Trade agencies have been set up in Europe and through South East Asia and their main objectives are to induce overseas manufacturers to bring new industries and products to South Australia, to encourage manufacturers to grant licences to manufacture suitable products here and to promote the influx of new capital by investment or joint venture participation in existing industries.

I am leaving later this month for a further tour of South East Asia to follow up trade and development opportunities.

The main purpose of our overseas trade and investment effort is to diversify the existing manufacturing base to complement, not to compete with established industries.

A major part of the job of the trade representatives is also to investigate new market potentials and feed back up to date market information for existing South Australian businessmen, so that they are enabled to a greater degree to find new outlets.

The second major feature of the Government's industrial development programme has been the foundation of the Industries Assistance Corporation.

Its establishment has provided a much needed body to assist in the development of new smaller industries which may have difficulty in obtaining bank or institutional finance on acceptable terms in their formative stages of development.

The Corporation is empowered to make funds available to both country and city industries and in certain instances can make non-repayable grants for development and research to country industries. Industries anywhere in the State will be able to borrow money from the Corporation with deferred interest payments.

In addition, where industries are likely to be profitable but are undercapitalised, the Corporation will be able to take up share capital, subject to a favourable recommendation from the Parliamentary Industries Development Committee.

A further stage in the development of this interlocking system for industrial promotion is expected to be underway soon.

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This is the Industries Research Institute which will be empowered to make grants for products research where investigation shows it is likely to lead to expansion of existing products or the establishment of new ones.

The success of the Government's programme naturally depends on the active participation of industry itself.

And if all South Australian businessmen show the initiative and imagination displayed in a venture such as this there is no doubt that this State will soon be leading Australia in broad-based industrial development.

I now have great pleasure in formally declaring open the Marion Group of Industries.
