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Title:

Press statement: State Finances

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PRESS STATEMENT: 5/2/71:

FROM: THE PREMIER (MR. DUNSTAN)

SUBJECT: STATE FINANCES.

"Mr. Hall suggested that the drift in State finances has come because of things like the Shopping Hours referendum that cost \$70,000 and the Royal Commission.

A few quite small items of this kind would not account for a tiny part of what our particular administrative problem is at the moment.

We have exercised tight financial control in South Australia. I introduced a very modest Budget as was pointed out by numbers of commentators last year, and our deficit has gone from \$5M. to \$11.5. Sir David Brand went from a balanced Budget to \$10M. deficit.

Every one of the States has faced an enormous increase in its expenditure because of wage rises of a kind which were quite unprecedented. Now, you can't budget for this effectively and accurately beforehand, and the Commonwealth is getting enough money in in income tax from the wage rises to pay for all its expenditure and does not give us anything towards ours."