



Archived at the Flinders Academic Commons:
<http://hdl.handle.net/2328/27231>

This is a scan of a document number DUN/Speeches/3521
in the Dunstan Collection, Special Collections, Flinders University Library.
<http://www.flinders.edu.au/library/info/collections/special/dunstan/>

Title:

ALP Broadcast by the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Don Dunstan, Q.C., M.P.,
Wednesday 1st May, 1968

Please acknowledge the source as:
Dunstan Collection, Flinders University Library.
Identifier: DUN/Speeches/3521

© Copyright Estate Donald Allan Dunstan

A.L.P. BROADCAST BY THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, HON. DON DUNSTAN,
Q.C., M.P., WEDNESDAY, 1ST MAY, 1968.

GOOD EVENING :

SINCE THE FURORE ABOUT THE ELECTION RESULT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, WE HAVE HAD A PERIOD OF SILENCE FROM THE LIBERAL PARTY. MR. HALL, HAVING ACCUSED THE LABOR PARTY OF INFLEXIBILITY AND FAILURE TO COMPROMISE, DESPITE THE FACT THAT INFLEXIBILITY AND FAILURE TO COMPROMISE HAS BEEN ALL ON THE OTHER SIDE, NOW REFUSES TO DISCUSS PUBLICLY HIS PARTY'S PROPOSALS. A SEMINAR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE ON THE ELECTORAL SITUATION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA FOUND THAT THE LIBERAL PARTY WAS UNWILLING EITHER TO ALLOW MR. HALL TO APPEAR WITH ME OR TO HAVE A SPOKESMAN FROM THE LIBERAL PARTY AT ALL, WHICH WOULD PUT ITS POINT OF VIEW. REQUESTS FROM THE COUNTRY PARTY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA FOR A ^{ROYAL} COMMISSION ON ELECTORAL REFORM BOTH FOR THE UPPER AND LOWER HOUSE, HAVE MET WITH A BLANK REFUSAL FROM THE LIBERAL PARTY, BUT BEFORE THE REIGN OF SILENCE

PAGE 2.

FELL, WE FOUND THAT MR. HALL WAS SAYING SOME DIFFERENT THINGS FROM WHAT HE HAD SAID BEFORE THE ELECTION. BEFORE THE ELECTION WE WERE TOLD THAT A NEW METROPOLITAN AREA WAS TO BE DEFINED AND THIS WOULD HAVE 25 SEATS. AFTER THE ELECTION, AT THE UNIVERSITY, MR. HALL SPOKE NOT OF 25 SEATS FOR THE METROPOLITAN BUT OF ~~25~~ ^{AREA} SEATS FOR THE INDUSTRIAL INTEREST AND ~~25~~ SEATS FOR THE RURAL INTEREST. NOW THIS IS A COMPLETE REVERSION TO THE INIQUITOUS, MONSTROUS PROPOSAL PUT BEFORE PARLIAMENT BY THE PLAYFORD GOVERNMENT IN 1963-64 FOR WHICH MR. HALL AND EVERY MEMBER OF THE PRESENT CABINET IN THE LOWER HOUSE VOTED. THAT WAS A PROPOSAL THAT NOT PEOPLE BUT SPECIFIC INTERESTS SHOULD BE REPRESENTED IN THE PARLIAMENT. IN OTHER WORDS, THAT WE WERE NOT TO HAVE DEMOCRACY AT ALL, BUT REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT ON THE BASIS ON WHICH MUSSOLINI HAD PROPOSED IT IN THE CONSTITUTION FOR FASCIST ITALY, TO HAVE SPECIFIC ECONOMIC INTERESTS CAREFULLY DEFINED TO FAVOUR THE PARTY IN POWER AND TO MAINTAIN THAT PARTY IN POWER WITH A SMALL MINORITY OF VOTES

WAS TO BE THE BASIS OF OUR CONSTITUTION. NOW, IF WE ARE TO HAVE ~~55~~ SEATS IN THE INDUSTRIAL INTEREST, AND ~~25~~ SEATS FOR THE RURAL INTEREST, THIS MEANS THAT THE COUNTRY CITIES AND THE AREAS WHERE THERE IS ALREADY INDUSTRY IN COUNTRY AREAS LIKE MILLICENT, WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE INDUSTRIAL INTEREST AND DEPRIVED OF THEIR PRESENT REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT AND PUT AT A SPECIFIC DISADVANTAGE AS COMPARED WITH THOSE PURELY PASTORAL OR AGRICULTURAL AREAS WHERE THE LIBERAL PARTY CAN MAINTAIN A HEAVY PREPONDERANCE OF VOTE. THIS WOULD ENABLE THE LIBERAL PARTY NOT MERELY TO PUT THE METROPOLITAN AREA AT A DISADVANTAGE, BUT TO PUT EVERY URBAN AREA UPON WHICH DECENTRALISATION COULD BE BASED IN THE STATE ALSO AT A DISADVANTAGE AS COMPARED WITH THOSE AREAS WHICH REGULARLY SUPPORT THE LIBERAL PARTY, AND IT WOULD ENABLE THE LIBERAL PARTY TO BE MAINTAINED IN OFFICE WITH LESS THAN 40% OF THE VOTE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

WHAT MR. HALL HAS NOW REVEALED IS THAT SOUTH AUSTRALIA IS FACING, UNDER HIS PROPOSALS, A PERIOD OF MINORITY, OLIGARCHIC RULE CONTRARY TO THE WISHES OF THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA. IF HE GETS HIS WAY, (AND HE HAS REFUSED TO DISCUSS ANY COMPROMISE UPON THIS PROPOSAL OFFERED SO FAR,) THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA MUST BE WARY THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE FOR THE NEXT 30 YEARS TAKEN AWAY FROM THEM EVEN A SEMBLANCE OF THE RIGHT TO ELECT THE GOVERNMENT THEY WANT OR REJECT THE GOVERNMENT THEY DO NOT WANT.

GOOD NIGHT.