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Title:

Statement: Liberal Party's attitude to state taxes

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STATEMENT

from the Premier

April 23, 1976
Date.....

Embargo.....

State Administration Centre,
Victoria Square, Adelaide,
South Australia 5001
228 4811

LIBERAL PARTY'S ATTITUDE TO STATE TAXES

The Liberal Party wanted to put South Australia into severe financial difficulties, the Acting Premier, Mr. Des Corcoran, said today.

"Dr. Tonkin's irresponsible and dishonest statements on State taxes should not fool anyone.

"He wants to put South Australia heavily into debt, and his proposals would mean the State Government would have much less money to provide hospitals, schools, roads, public transport services and the whole range of community assistance schemes South Australians expect to be provided by their Government.

"Dr. Tonkin seems ashamed of the fact that South Australia is the best managed State in Australia. We have a Budget surplus at a time when every Liberal governed State has a large Budget deficit.

"Our surplus is a tribute to the good management and foresight of the Premier and Treasurer, Mr. Dunstan.

"But it is by no means a large amount when considered in the total Budget.

"The Budget this financial year is more than \$1,100 million. The surplus is around \$25 - \$30 million - about 3 percent of total outlays.

"A similar percentage surplus would give a man on an average wage of \$8132 about \$270 in his pocket at the end of the year. He would hardly ask for a wage cut because he was embarrassed with money, yet this is what Dr. Tonkin says should happen.

"The Liberal Party should be honest. If their policy is to cut taxes, they must tell the people of South Australia that there will be cuts in Government services. That means fewer teachers, fewer doctors, less roadbuilding and deteriorating public transport services.



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"The Liberal Party wants us to throw money away at a time of great economic uncertainty.

"South Australia does not know what is in store for the State at either the Loan Council in June or the Federal Budget in August.

"If the State's loan allocation is cut, we will need our revenue surplus to finance loan works, such as hospitals, roads and housing.

"As for Dr. Tonkin's specious claims that industries are moving out of South Australia - let him name businesses which have done so. He cannot.

"In fact in the past year new industries worth more than \$146 million have been established in South Australia to provide security and diversity of employment in the State.

"Dr. Tonkin is obsessed with selling South Australia down the drain. He never misses a chance to knock the State - he even came back from seeing the Prime Minister in Canberra and told South Australians they had got too much money from Canberra and they should get less, and that he agreed that South Australia should be given a worse deal.

"The figures clearly show Dr. Tonkin's claims to be as untrue as they are irresponsible.

"In terms of total tax receipts per head, South Australia collects far less than either of the Liberal governed States of NSW or Victoria.

SW collects \$233 per person, Victoria \$227 and South Australia \$198).

"In specific cases such as land tax, payroll tax, succession duties or stamp duties, our per capita collections are again much lower than those of the Liberal Governments in NSW or Victoria.

"Six months ago the Liberal Party falsely claimed South Australia was bankrupt - now their distortions are shown for what they are, by the best financial situation of any State in the country, Dr. Tonkin says we should be adopting policies which will make us bankrupt.

"He is determined to knock South Australia no matter what the cost".

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