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Press release: Federal Housing aid

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PRESS RELEASE FROM THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN.

Federal Housing Aid.

7.4.72

The South Australian Premier, Mr. Dunstan, today called for immediate Federal Government action to help stem problems of urban decay affecting major Australian cities.

Mr. Dunstan, who is also S.A. Housing Minister, is attending the conference of Federal and State Housing Ministers in Hobart.

The Premier sought Commonwealth action in three specific areas:

• State housing authorities should be provided with low interest money to buy older houses in inner suburban areas;

• Special tax or loan incentives should be provided by the Federal Government to encourage private participation in urban renewal schemes;

• Canberra should provide funds for research to define problems of urban decay and work out ways in which they could be solved.

"The problem is too big to be within the financial resources of the States alone", Mr. Dunstan said.

In South Australia the seven local government areas in the heart of Adelaide were all losing population.

Overall population had dropped by 11.4% between 1961 and 1971 while for the metropolitan area as a whole it had gone up by about 28% in the same period.

The State Government was deeply concerned about this trend because of the financial strains it put on its resources and because of the social problems it created.

Federal Government action was necessary if "urban blight" was to be avoided and inner city areas restored as viable, attractive communities, the Premier said.