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**Title:**

Statement: Premier attacks Dr Tonkin

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# STATEMENT

from the Premier

Date.....January 22, 1976.

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

Embargo.....

The Premier, Mr. Dunstan, said today that the Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Tonkin, had done a grave dis-service to the people of South Australia in his discussions with the Prime Minister, Mr. Fraser.

"It would appear from today's press reports that Dr. Tonkin has agreed with Mr. Fraser that the benefits South Australia is at present receiving from proper agreements made with the Commonwealth will be taken away from the people of South Australia," said Mr. Dunstan.

"This is to be done", said the Premier, "by means of some reduction in South Australian Special Grants".

"This is a disgraceful process and means that no Federal Government in future can be accorded the trust that they will honour agreements made with the States.

"If this was allowed to happen it would mean that no State could ever make an agreement with the Federal Government in future and be able to rely on the terms of that agreement.

"Dr. Tonkin says that South Australia is getting too much money. It is only six months since Dr. Tonkin's Party said that South Australia was bankrupt, but now Dr. Tonkin says that South Australia has been receiving too much money for 18 months and that we should be deprived of it.

"Dr. Tonkin sees some strange benefit to South Australia in our being able to spend money which we now won't have.

"Furthermore, it is quite improper for Dr. Tonkin to be having such discussions with the Prime Minister at this time. It is quite wrong for the Leader of an Opposition in a State to be given information concerning inter-Governmental and contractual arrangements not available to the elected Government.

"I protested that this not be done before Dr. Tonkin went to Canberra. He said it was not going to be done - the proof is in the paper today.

"Mr. Fraser is not enhancing Federalism. He is out to destroy it".