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**Title:**

Statement: Worker participation

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# STATEMENT

from the Premier

Date... May 5, 1975.....

Embargo.....

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

## WORKER PARTICIPATION

One of the most significant political developments in the Western Democracies during the next 20 years would be worker participation in management, the Premier of South Australia, Mr. Dunstan, said today. "It's an idea whose time has come".

He was speaking at a Labor Day Dinner in Cairns, Queensland.

Mr. Dunstan said that the process had already begun in Scandinavian and other European countries and it "would soon be strongly established in Australia".

He said that several Statutory Bodies in South Australia already had, or would soon have, shop-floor elections to put workers on their boards of Management.

"This will increasingly become the general rule rather than the exception, and we intend to legislate to ensure that all firms and employee organisations recognise the democratic principles involved".

"Job-enrichment and worker participation was essential for proper standards of work organisation", Mr. Dunstan said.

"Workers had a proper right to participate, and a vital interest in, management decisions that affect their livelihood and worktime".

Mr. Dunstan said that the Labor Movement in Australia should come to grips with this next phase in its programme.

"It has often seemed as if Union Leaders were afraid of worker participation in management because they feared they might lose influence or negotiating power".

"This short-sightedness has meant that the move towards worker participation in management has not advanced as far in Australia as it had even in the United States".

"It is essential that both managements and worker organisations begin now to see their organisations as social units just as subject to democratic values and social morality as is the political electorate as a whole".



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