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Press release - Speech at Rotary Club Luncheon

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PRESS RELEASE OF SPEECH GIVEN BY THE HON. DON DUNSTAN, Q.C., M.P.
AT ROTARY CLUB LUNCHEON, ADELAIDE, 9/10/68.

South Australia is a State which has to sell its skills, the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Don Dunstan, told members at a Rotary Club luncheon in Adelaide today. "Because of this", he said, "employers should be 'keen to' support the extension of trade unionism and increased consultation between employer and employee."

"The only reason we have the motor car and home appliance industries here is that we have a stable force of skilled craftsmen," Mr. Dunstan said. "Without them, and without industrial peace and stability, there would be a very sorry state in industrial development in South Australia today."

Mr. Dunstan was speaking to the luncheon on "Labor Day". He said: "What we celebrate by Labor Day in this State is the good sense of citizens in realizing that Trades Unions and workers must get satisfaction from their jobs, reasonable conditions, security and leisure, and that this is the way to higher production and industrial advance." "This involves, I believe, a rejection of the attitude that employers must be 'management-minded', a phrase very often used to indicate that any request of the workers is to receive a summary rejection."

Mr. Dunstan continued: "It is vital to realise that in large industrial undertakings, much better work will occur if people at the benches feel they are part of the whole show and are kept informed, and, as far as possible, are consulted about the targets of the undertaking."

"The development of joint consultation between men on the job and the management is necessary in an age where the scale of production tends to ignore human values and to depersonalize daily activity."

Mr. Dunstan said: "During the last three years,

South Australia has had a record in Australia of having by far the least man hours lost in industrial disputes. This could not have been achieved unless improvements in conditions for workers occurred.

"There was a very reasonable case for improving conditions of workers so that their ancillary benefits were in industrial protection, in compensation for injury, long service leave, service pay and several other things.

"There was and still is a particularly strong case for improving conditions for women workers. This could be done without adding markedly to costs, though at the same time very real benefits flowed to the workers."

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