



Archived at the Flinders Academic Commons:
<http://hdl.handle.net/2328/27231>

This is a scan of a document number DUN/Speeches/3360
in the Dunstan Collection, Special Collections, Flinders University Library.
<http://www.flinders.edu.au/library/info/collections/special/dunstan/>

Title:
5CL ALP Broadcast

Please acknowledge the source as:
Dunstan Collection, Flinders University Library.
Identifier: DUN/Speeches/3360

© Copyright Estate Donald Allan Dunstan

A.L.P. BROADCAST - WEDNESDAY 3rd March, 1965DON DUNSTAN M.P.

As the election campaign draws to a close it is evident that the Premier is becoming desperate.

The Liberal Party has no answer to the charge that it has cynically altered the boundaries of electoral districts to its own advantage and to deny to the citizens of the State the right, by a majority, to elect the Government of their choice.

Realising that this was so, the Premier attempted to divert the attention of the electors by promising a Royal Commission into the basis of voting in South Australia. This of course promises nothing. No Royal Commission can achieve much when the Premier writes its terms of reference to suit himself. Moreover, he has often boasted that he can always predict what reports will be given by Royal Commissions because he can ^{Choose} advise the Commissioners. What facts are there for a Royal Commission to establish? The principle of one man one vote, one vote one value is perfectly clear. We don't need a Royal Commission to tell us that there is no case for giving a citizen a greater voice than the next citizen in the future of the State because ^{of} his occupation, his income, his possessions, or where he lives, or the amount of space between him and the next voter.

The principle was established ^{Centuries} ~~years~~ ago each citizen, having to live subject to the laws made by the Parliament, should have the same right as every other citizen to an effective voice in what those laws should be.

In the debates in the 1700's on the Constitution of the U.S.A. these principles were enumerated by the formers of that Constitution, and were cited with approval by the U.S. Supreme Court only last year.

"Who are to be the electors? Not the rich more than the poor, not the learned more than the ignorant, nor the haughty heirs of distinguished names more than the humble sons of obscure and unpropitious fortune. The electors are to be the great body of the people."
and again-

"All elections ought to be equal. Elections are equal when a given number of citizens, in one part of the State, choose as many representatives as are chosen by the same number of citizens in any other part of the State. In this manner the proportion of the representatives and of the constituents will remain invariably the same."

On these principles the Labor Party stands - and no Royal Commission can make a difference to a question which is not one for inquiry as to facts, but a question of politics and morals.

The Premier, realising that his proposal of a Royal Commission has impressed no one, has in the past few days been guilty of wildly inaccurate and irresponsible charges as to the result of Labor's proposed 56 member House of Assembly with each district substantially equal to the others in numbers of constituents. In Naracoorte he said that members would be concentrated around the G.P.O. Adelaide while 10,000 voters would get one member when they were spread over three quarters of the State. The fact is that under Labor's proposal the present number of substantially country seats - 26 - will be retained. The people of the Naracoorte area will be in an electoral district and almost exactly the same as their present one. Nowhere can you find 10,000 voters strung over three-quarters of the State.

The Premier last night said Labor would make the Frome district twice its present area. This is untrue. Frome will get little extra territory in the redistribution. But the Premier's remarks are strange coming from one who early last year attempted to make the Frome district much larger - since Labor represents the sparsely settled areas of South Australia he was going to decrease their voice in Parliament.

The Liberals in fact have no answer. The issue on Saturday is whether we will have a democracy in this State. If you are a democrat there is only one way to vote - for Labor candidates on March 6th.

A.L.P. BROADCAST - WEDNESDAY 3rd March, 1965

DON DUNSTAN M.P.

As the election campaign draws to a close it is evident that the Premier is becoming desperate.

The Liberal Party has no answer to the charge that it has cynically altered the boundaries of electoral districts to its own advantage and to deny to the citizens of the State the right, by a majority, to elect the Government of their choice.

Realising that this was so, the Premier attempted to divert the attention of the electors by promising a Royal Commission into the basis of voting in South Australia. This of course promises nothing. No Royal Commission can achieve much when the Premier writes its terms of reference to suit himself. Moreover, he has often boasted that he can always predict what reports will be given by Royal Commissions because he can ^{choose} ~~advise~~ the Commissioners. What facts are there for a Royal Commission to establish? The principle of one man one vote, one vote one value is perfectly clear. We don't need a Royal Commission to tell us that there is no case for giving a citizen a greater voice ^{of} than the next citizen in the future of the State because ~~if~~ his occupation, his income, his possessions, or where he lives, or the amount of space between him and the next voter.

The principle was established ^{Centuries} ~~years~~ ago each citizen, having to live subject to the laws made by the Parliament, should have the same right as every other citizen to an effective voice in what those laws should be.

In the debates in the 1700's on the Constitution of the U.S.A. these principles were enumerated by the formers of that Constitution, and were cited with approval by the U.S. Supreme Court only last year.

"Who are to be the electors? Not the rich more than the poor, not the learned more than the ignorant, nor the haughty heirs of distinguished names more than the humble sons of obscure and unpropitious fortune. The electors are to be the great body of the people."
and again-

"All elections ought to be equal. Elections are equal when a given number of citizens, in one part of the State, choose as many representatives as are chosen by the same number of citizens in any other part of the State. In this manner the proportion of the representatives and of the constituents will remain invariably the same."

On these principles the Labor Party stands - and no Royal Commission can make a difference to a question which is not one for inquiry as to facts, but a question of politics and morals.

The Premier, realising that his proposal of a Royal Commission has impressed no one, has in the past few days been guilty of wildly inaccurate and irresponsible charges as to the result of Labor's proposed 56 member House of Assembly with each district substantially equal to the others in numbers of constituents. In Naracoorte he said that members would be concentrated around the G.P.O. Adelaide while 10,000 voters would get one member when they were spread over three quarters of the State. The fact is that under Labor's proposal the present number of substantially country seats - 26 - will be retained. The people of the Naracoorte area will be in an electoral district and almost exactly the same as their present one. Nowhere can you find 10,000 voters strung over three-quarters of the State.

The Premier last night said Labor would make the Frome district twice its present area. This is untrue. Frome will get little extra territory in the redistribution. But the Premier's remarks are strange coming from one who early last year attempted to make the Frome district much larger - since Labor represents the sparsely settled areas of South Australia he was going to decrease their voice in Parliament.

The Liberals in fact have no answer. The issue on Saturday is whether we will have a democracy in this State. If you are a democrat there is only one way to vote - for Labor candidates on March 6th.