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Title:

Speech at the annual governing council meeting of the National Farmers Union of South Australia

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SPEECH BY THE HON. THE PREMIER, MR. D.A. DUNSTAN, Q.C., M.P.,
AT THE ANNUAL GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL FARMERS UNION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA. 21.8.67.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN :

I AM VERY GLAD TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF BEING WITH YOU AT THIS ANNUAL GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL FARMERS UNION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

THERE IS NO NEED FOR ME TO EMPHASIZE TO YOU, GENTLEMEN, THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PRIMARY PRODUCTION TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA. WE ALL KNOW THAT THE ECONOMY OF THE STATE DEVELOPED FROM THE EARLY DAYS AROUND THE SUCCESS OF PRIMARY PRODUCTION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA. THIS, OF COURSE, HAS CHANGED IN LATTER YEARS TO A POSITION WHERE SECONDARY INDUSTRY HAS BEEN DEVELOPED TO A STAGE WHERE WE NOW HAVE AN ECONOMY ADEQUATELY BALANCED BETWEEN PRIMARY PRODUCTION AND SECONDARY INDUSTRY.

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WE HAVE ALSO REACHED THE STAGE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA WHEREBY MOST OF THE LAND AVAILABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA IS IN USE AND WE HAVE LITTLE FURTHER LAND AVAILABLE TO ADD TO OUR PRIMARY PRODUCTION. NEVERTHELESS THE VALUE OF PRIMARY PRODUCTION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA HAS NOT REACHED ITS LIMIT. THE CONTINUAL RESEARCH INTO SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES IN LAND HUSBANDRY AND LAND USAGE IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE WELFARE OF OUR STATE. OVER RECENT YEARS WE HAVE MADE GREAT STRIDES IN SCIENTIFIC APPROACHES TO PRIMARY PRODUCTION. GREATER CROPS ARE BEING PRODUCED FROM OUR LAND UNDER CULTIVATION AND ADVANCES IN PASTURE TREATMENT HAVE GREATLY ALTERED THE CARRYING CAPACITIES OF LAND FOR SHEEP AND CATTLE. THE GOVERNMENT IS VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF SCIENTIFIC APPROACHES TO PRIMARY PRODUCTION, AND MY COLLEAGUE THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, AND INDEED THE WHOLE CABINET, IS VERY MUCH AWARE OF THE

IMPORTANCE OF THIS ASPECT IN THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR STATE. TO THIS END, THE GOVERNMENT IS CONTINUALLY ADVANCING THE WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ENSURE THAT THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO CARRY OUT THE IMPORTANT TASK OF PRIMARY PRODUCTION IN OUR STATE. THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT HOPE TO REGULATE THE WEATHER CONDITIONS - MUCH AS WE WOULD LIKE SO TO DO. HOWEVER, WE DO AIM, WITH THE ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE OF SCIENTIFIC METHODS, TO COPE WITH THE VAGARIES OF THE WEATHER IN SUCH A WAY THAT SOUTH AUSTRALIA AS A STATE, AND SOUTH AUSTRALIANS AS PEOPLE, WILL DERIVE THE BEST POSSIBLE BENEFIT FROM THE EFFORTS PUT FORWARD BY THOSE ENGAGED IN PRIMARY PRODUCTION.

I HAVE MENTIONED THE EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN PROMOTING THE WELFARE OF OUR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES. GOVERNMENTS ALONE CANNOT ACHIEVE OUTSTANDING

SUCCESS IN THESE SPHERES AND THEREFORE THE ACTIVITIES OF YOUR ORGANIZATION PLAY A VERY IMPORTANT PART IN THE FUTURE OF PRIMARY PRODUCTION IN OUR STATE. IT IS THE CO-OPERATIVE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS, ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS YOURS, AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF ORGANISATIONS, THAT WILL PRODUCE OUTSTANDING RESULTS. MAY I ASSURE YOU OF THE CONTINUED CO-OPERATION ON THE PART OF MY GOVERNMENT, AND I FEEL SURE THAT IN TURN THE GOVERNMENT CAN RELY ON THE CONTINUED CO-OPERATION OF YOUR ORGANISATION TO ADVANCE THE BETTERMENT OF PRIMARY PRODUCTION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

MR. CHAIRMAN : IT IS WITH PLEASURE THAT I DECLARE THIS ANNUAL GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING TO BE OFFICIALLY OPENED, AND I EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT YOUR DELIBERATIONS WILL PROVE OF BENEFIT NOT ONLY TO THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF YOUR UNION BUT TO THE GENERAL BENEFIT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.