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Title:

Speech at the opening of Plasteel Pty. Ltd. new premises, Elizabeth

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN, AT THE OPENING OF PLASTEEL PTY. LTD.
NEW PREMISES, EDWARDSTOWN. 28/10/71.

MR. DUTHY,

MR. KEATS,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVITATION TO OPEN THIS NEW FACTORY.

PLASTEEL'S SUCCESS STORY IS AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF THE GROWTH OF A SMALL BACKYARD CONCERN, STARTING NINE YEARS AGO WITH JUST THREE PEOPLE, INTO A VIGOROUS AND EXPANDING BUSINESS WITH CONSIDERABLE SALES BOTH LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS.

PLASTEEL'S PRESSED STEEL PRODUCTS, MAJOR SWITCHBOARDS AND ASSOCIATED PRODUCTS HAVE GONE TO INDUSTRY IN ALL STATES AND A LARGE VOLUME IS EXPORTED OVERSEAS, NOTABLY TO FIJI. PLASTEEL HAS CONTRACTED FOR MOST MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND IS CURRENTLY PRODUCING THE SWITCHBOARDS FOR THE FESTIVAL HALL.

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THIS, BY THE WAY, IS JUST ONE OF THE MANY EXAMPLES OF THE SPIN-OFF BENEFITS FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FIRMS FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE PERFORMING ARTS AND TOURIST FACILITIES BUT IT TYPIFIES HOW FAR THROUGHOUT THE ECONOMY THESE BENEFITS PENETRATE.

I'VE HAD QUITE A LOT TO SAY IN RECENT WEEKS ABOUT THE SUCCESS OUR DEVELOPMENT POLICIES ARE HAVING IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND ABOUT OUR PRESENT FORTUNATE POSITION IN BEING ABLE TO ANTICIPATE CONTINUED EXPANSION AT A TIME OF SOME NATIONAL CONCERN. MOST OF THE EXAMPLES I'VE GIVEN HAVE BEEN THOSE WITH WHICH THE HOUSING TRUST OR THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BRANCH OF MY DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED. BUT, OF COURSE, THEY'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES.

PLASTEEL'S OWN EXPANSION PROGRAMME HAS GONE AHEAD WITHOUT DRAWING ON THE FACILITIES THE STATE GOVERNMENT CAN PROVIDE AND IT ILLUSTRATES THE FACT THAT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA IS BY NO MEANS CONFINED TO THE HOUSING TRUST ESTATES.

WE AS A GOVERNMENT ARE VERY PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS NOW FLOWING FROM OUR CO-ORDINATED PROGRAMME TO SECURE MORE DEVELOPMENT AND THEREFORE MORE JOBS AND GREATER PROSPERITY. BUT THE PLEASURE WE TAKE IN THIS MUST BE TEMPERED WITH SOME ANXIETY ABOUT THE EFFECT THAT A CONTINUATION OF PRESENT FEDERAL ECONOMIC AND FISCAL POLICIES WOULD HAVE ON OUR ECONOMY AND THOSE OF THE OTHER STATES. THE PLAIN FACT IS THAT THESE CURRENT COMMONWEALTH POLICIES AREN'T WORKING. ONE CAN SEE THIS IN THE LOOMING PROBLEM OF UNEMPLOYMENT, IN THE RISING COST OF LIVING AND, EQUALLY IMPORTANTLY, IN THE GENERAL UNEASE OF NUMBERS OF BUSINESSMEN THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA

THE TIME TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE IS NOW. THE WAY TO DO SO IS THROUGH ACTION BY THE FEDERAL TREASURER TO STIMULATE DEMAND AND INVESTMENT. MERELY TALKING ABOUT IT - OR PRETENDING THAT PROBLEMS AREN'T THERE IN THE HOPE THAT THEY'LL GO AWAY - JUST ISN'T ENOUGH. AUSTRALIA CANNOT AFFORD AN UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL OF 124,000 - AND THAT'S THE WAY WE ARE HEADING AS EARLY AS NEXT JANUARY. WE CANNOT AFFORD IT SOCIALLY. WE CANNOT AFFORD IT ECONOMICALLY.

THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT THE CURRENT LACK OF BUSINESS CONFIDENCE IN FEDERAL ECONOMIC POLICIES AS WELL AS THEIR ABSOLUTE DEFLATIONARY EFFECT IS DIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING TO THE PRESENT RISING LEVEL OF PRICES. BUSINESSMEN WHO FEEL THEY CANNOT LOOK FORWARD TO INCREASING SALES AND DEMAND FOR THEIR GOODS ARE FAR MORE TEMPTED TO PASS ON COST INCREASES RATHER THAN TO SEEK TO ABSORB THEM.

I BELIEVE THE EVIDENCE IS PLAIN THAT INDUSTRIALISTS AND BUSINESSMEN HAVE CONFIDENCE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S CAPACITY FOR DEVELOPMENT. THERE SHOULD BE NO DOUBT ABOUT THE PROSPECTS AT A NATIONAL LEVEL.

SIR, I CONGRATULATE YOUR COMPANY ON THE INITIATIVE AND RESOURCE DISPLAYED IN PLANNING AND BUILDING THESE NEW PREMISES. I'M PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO NOTE THAT YOU EXPECT THEIR COMPLETION TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY A FURTHER EXPANSION IN YOUR WORKFORCE. COMPLETION OF THIS PROJECT IS A TRIBUTE TO YOUR OWN ENERGIES AND THOSE OF YOUR EMPLOYEES AND IS OF GENERAL BENEFIT TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

THANK YOU.