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Radio Broadcast - Health and Hospitals

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A.L.P. BROADCAST BY THE HON. THE PREMIER, MR. DON DUNSTAN, Q.C., M.P.
5-K.A., 6.55 P.M., FRIDAY, 27TH OCTOBER, 1967.

HEALTH AND HOSPITALS.

GOOD EVENING :

I WANT TO TALK TO YOU THIS EVENING ABOUT HEALTH AND HOSPITALS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND THE VERY FINE RECORD WHICH HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED UNDER THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT, WHOSE MINISTER OF HEALTH IS MR. SHARD THE CHIEF SECRETARY. PRIOR TO THE GOVERNMENT'S TAKING OFFICE, THE SITUATION IN HEALTH AND HOSPITALS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA WAS THAT EVER SINCE 1945, THIS STATE HAD SPENT LESS PER HEAD OF POPULATION ON HEALTH AND HOSPITALS THAN ANY OTHER PART OF AUSTRALIA. THE RESULT WAS THAT BY 1965, WE HAD FEWER PUBLIC HOSPITAL BEDS IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION THAN ANY OTHER STATE, FEWER TRAINED MEDICAL STAFF AND FEWER TRAINED NURSING STAFF IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION. IN ADDITION, OUR SERVICES WERE NOT AT THE LEVEL OF THOSE OF OTHER STATES. WHAT HAS HAPPENED UNDER THE LABOR GOVERNMENT? FIRST OF ALL, IN RELATION TO SPENDING WE HAVE TAKEN THIS STATE FROM SPENDING THE LEAST PER HEAD ON

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HEALTH AND HOSPITALS TO 33c. PER HEAD OF POPULATION ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE, AND THAT BEFORE THE MONEY FROM THE LOTTERIES AND T.A.B. PAID INTO THE HOSPITALS FUND IS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, AND THAT IS NEARLY AN EXTRA \$4M. THIS FINANCIAL YEAR. SO YOU CAN SEE THAT SPENDING ON HEALTH AND HOSPITALS UNDER THE LABOR GOVERNMENT HAS INCREASED ENORMOUSLY. NOW, WHAT HAVE WE DONE WITH THE MONEY? SERVICES IN MANY DIRECTIONS HAVE BEEN IMPROVED. PARTICULARLY IS THIS SO IN RELATION TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES. UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, WHO HAS NOW BECOME THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF HOSPITALS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, DR. SHEA, WE DEVELOPED A FLEXIBLE SERIES OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES WITH MENTAL HOSPITAL OR MENTAL HEALTH VISITORS, OUTPATIENT TREATMENT, DAY HOSPITALS AND THE LIKE, SO THAT WE ARE THE ONE PART OF AUSTRALIA WHICH HAS REDUCED THE PROPORTION OF POPULATION IN MENTAL INSTITUTIONS. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE STARTED THE DENTAL HEALTH SCHEME, THE NURSES TRAINING SCHEME, AND DENTAL HEALTH WHICH WILL GIVE US FAR INCREASED DENTAL HEALTH

FACILITIES THROUGHOUT SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AND WE HAVE INCREASED THE MONIES AVAILABLE TO COMMUNITY HOSPITALS AND TO GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS GENERALLY TO IMPROVE THE SERVICES THAT THEY HAVE GIVEN. WE HAVE GONE ON WITH THE REBUILDING OF THE ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL AND THE EXTRA FACILITIES AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL AND WE HAVE PLANNED TWO ENTIRELY NEW GENERAL HOSPITALS. ONE OF THESE - THE HOSPITAL WHICH WILL BE BUILT AT FLINDERS UNIVERSITY - WILL BE AN 800-BED GENERAL HOSPITAL WITH TEACHING HOSPITAL FACILITIES. NOW, IT IS QUITE VITAL THAT WE HAVE THESE EXTRA TEACHING HOSPITAL FACILITIES TO TRAIN EXTRA MEDICAL STAFF. IN THE LAST YEAR OF THE PLAYFORD GOVERNMENT, JUST BEFORE OUR GOVERNMENT TOOK OFFICE, MORE THAN HALF THE STUDENTS APPLYING FOR ENTRY INTO THE MEDICAL SCHOOL AT ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY WERE TURNED AWAY AND THAT INCLUDED COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS. IT IS QUITE VITAL THAT WE HAVE INCREASED FACILITIES FOR TRAINING DOCTORS AND THIS MEANS CLINICAL FACILITIES ESPECIALLY. A NEW

MEDICAL SCHOOL WILL BE BUILT AT FLINDERS UNIVERSITY, AND SUBMISSIONS ARE TO BE MADE NEXT MONTH IN RELATION TO THE NEW HOSPITAL SO THAT THE COMMONWEALTH WILL PAY ITS CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE TEACHING PART OF THE HOSPITAL AND WE WILL HAVE THE HOSPITAL READY AT THE TIME THAT STUDENTS COME FROM THE MEDICAL SCHOOL TO DO THE HOSPITAL YEARS OF THEIR COURSE. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE THE PLANS ALREADY BEFORE THE PUBLIC WORKS STANDING COMMITTEE FOR A 500-BED GENERAL HOSPITAL AT MODBURY. THE FIRST PHASE OF THIS IS TO START AT THE BEGINNING OF NEXT YEAR. SITE WORKS ARE ALREADY BEGUN AND WE WILL BE WELL ON OUR WAY WITH THE MODBURY HOSPITAL SHORTLY AFTER CHRISTMAS. THIS HOSPITAL ALSO, IN THE LATER STAGES, WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TEACHING FACILITIES TO EXPAND THE FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY FOR THE IMMEDIATELY POST-GRADUATE YEARS, PARTICULARLY OF STUDY IN A HOSPITAL.

SO YOU CAN SEE THE HEALTH AND HOSPITAL SERVICES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA HAVE RECEIVED A GREAT BOOST AS A RESULT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LABOR GOVERNMENT. NONE OF THESE FACILITIES WAS EVEN ON THE DRAWING BOARD BEFORE OUR GOVERNMENT TOOK OFFICE. THE SLOGAN ON THIS SECTION : "LIVE BETTER WITH LABOR" HAS NEVER BEEN BETTER PROVED.

GOOD NIGHT.