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5KA BROADCAST 25.1.65

Good evening,

The Playford Government is desperately trying to find a way out of the A.L.P.'s charges concerning the rigged electoral system in this State.

As a result, some strange utterances are now emanating from L.C.L.'s North Terrace office. In last Saturday's morning paper the L.C.L. spokesman said that the issue of the electoral boundaries in South Australia was a "red herring". Well - let's examine that. They mean, I take it, that it is irrelevant - not concerned with the things about which voters have to make up their minds.

Is it irrelevant? To you, or to me, isn't the question of whether we have full rights as citizens relevant. Doesn't it matter whether we have as much say in our future as other people in the community do? Isn't it of importance in a democracy that we should be able to choose the Government we want and reject the Government we don't want? Isn't it central to the existence of Government that it should be answerable to the people and should fear the disapproval of the electors? To the overwhelming majority of people in this State who regularly vote against the Playford Government how can it be a "red herring" to say that their votes should be effective and that the voice of the majority should be heard.

How crass vapid and jejune it is to say that democracy is a "red herring".

The spokesman went on to say that no doubt the Labor members would not remind the people that they all voted against an alteration to electoral boundaries last year. The spokesman is quite mistaken. The proposal to

which he is referring was a proposition by the Premier which had the following features:

- (a) Representation from the areas immediately surrounding the city, such as Gawler, Elisabeth, Fox Tree Gully and Modybury, Clarendon, Christies Beach and Port Hoarlunga was to be reduced.
- (b) Representation from country towns was to be reduced and Port Augusta - a Labor city like all the country cities in the State was to lose its member altogether.
- (c) Representation from selected rural areas favouring the L.C.L. was to be increased.

The total effect of these proposals would have been to make it possible for the Playford administration to retain office with only one-third of the electors voting for it. But the scheme did not stop there. It also provided an extra number of members for the Legislative Council - that ~~of~~ those and useless encumbrance on Government in South Australia. Our dictators purpose here was to rig the boundaries for Upper House elections anew, so that if by some chance the A.L.P. got a majority in the Lower House, it could never have worked the deadlock provisions of the constitution to make the minority elected Upper House agree to the things for which the people as a whole had voted.

Every Labor man voted against those proposals. We shall take the trouble to tell the electors what we did - and why.

Goodnight.