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SKA BROADCAST - 8.3.65

Good evening,

You will, I hope, pardon my jubilation this evening. The Labor Party has succeeded in winning a Government in South Australia despite the gerrymander of electorates. It took 58% of the total vote to do it, and the Labor Party polled that fantastic number - a vote unparalleled in any State this century, and the Labor Party did it by convincing the overwhelming majority of the electors that its policy was sound and just. It is now certain that the Labor Party has attained all its seats, all those it held in the last Parliament, and won the seats of Barossa and Glenelg. In addition it seems very probable that the Country Party with Labor support, has won Eyre from the L.C.L. The line-up in the House of Assembly will therefore be - A.L.P. 21, L.C.L. 16, Country Party 1 and Independent - that is Mr. Stott - 1.

On behalf of the Labor Party I would like to thank all the fine people who worked so hard to make this victory for democracy possible, and to thank the people of this State and of my own district of course particularly for the support they have given us.

The tasks ahead of a Labor Government are not simple. It is essential that immediate action be taken to provide a just electoral system for the State. It is certain that the Labor Party will ask Parliament to pass a constitutional amendment to this effect as soon as possible.

But the L.C.L. Government has been in office - and inefficient in office - for so long that the need

for reform in a myriad of fields has become pressing. The new Government will have to proceed with urgent reforms in hospitals, child welfare, relief of the aged, education, town planning, the financial structure, industrial protection and safety - in such measure that the tasks ahead are almost Himalayan.

But Labor is determined to restore South Australia to the position she held back in the 1860's as the leader in social reforms, in liberal attitudes (that is liberal with a small "l") and enlightened administration. This was the first State to introduce the secret ballot, adult suffrage, Lands Titles Registration and a host of other reforms. Under the Playford regime South Australia became not the foremost in making advances in social conditions but the foremost in turning the clock back. It was small wonder that visiting commentators said that in the 20th century we had the best 18th century Government in the world.

Now the opportunity has been given to us to alter all this - to make this a State where new departures and exciting developments are the order of the day. In this we ask your co-operation and support. Let's get together not only to make this an exhilarating place to live for those who are here but by our example to lead others to emulate elsewhere what South Australia has accomplished. That will be the goal of the Labor Government.

Goodnight.