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**Title:**

Address of welcome to Professor J. K. Galbraith

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ADDRESS OF WELCOME TO PROFESSOR J.K. GALBRAITH

BY THE PREMIER, DON DUNSTAN.

14/9/73.

MR. RUSSELL,  
PROFESSOR GALBRAITH,  
(LADIES AND) GENTLEMEN.

I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO WELCOME YOU, SIR, TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA,  
AND WARMLY DO SO. WE ARE HONOURED TO HAVE YOU HERE.

AND I SAY THIS, NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT IS AN APPROPRIATE  
THING TO SAY IN WELCOMING A GUEST, BUT ALSO BECAUSE AS  
AN INTELLECTUAL LUMINARY, YOU ARE VISITING A STATE WITH  
A RELATIVELY HIGH REGARD FOR THE INTELLECT.

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WE HAVE ALSO A LONG TRADITION OF DISSENT, AND A KIND OF  
INSTITUTIONALIZED RADICALISM. BOTH QUALITIES, I AM  
SURE, ARE NOT UNFAMILIAR TO YOU, JUST AS THEY ARE NOT  
UNFAMILIAR TO PRESIDENT NIXON. HE HAS OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED  
YOU AS A PRACTITIONER OF BOTH.

AND HIS DOING SO WAS, OF COURSE, AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE  
OF AMERICAN CIVILIZATION. OTHER HUMAN SOCIETIES HAVE  
TREATED DISSENTERS IN A VARIETY OF WAYS - RANGING DOWN  
OR AWAY FROM THE SELF ADMINISTRATION OF HEMLOCK.

HOWEVER, IN WASHINGTON AT THE MOMENT THINGS APPEAR A  
LITTLE CONFUSED. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT SELF INFLICTED  
INJURY IS STILL FAVOURED, THOUGH IN A SOMEWHAT UNUSUALLY  
REVERSED FORM. THE GOVERNMENT IS PUNISHING ITSELF.

SIR, IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT YOU ARE IN AUSTRALIA, FOR IT MUST SURELY BE AN INTRIGING PLACE TO BE IN FOR AN ECONOMIST AT THIS TIME. THE NATION IS, AT PRESENT, EXPERIENCING WHAT MIGHT ONLY ACCURATELY BE DESCRIBED AS WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS - THE WITHDRAWAL, AFTER TWENTY THREE YEARS, OF CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT.

THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY HAS NOW GAINED NATIONAL ASCENDENCY, AND IT IS PROCEEDING WITH AN IMMENSE REFORM PROGRAMME.

THIS IS ALSO, BY ITS VERY NATURE, CAUSING CERTAIN SECTIONS IN THE COMMUNITY TO FEEL DISTINCTLY UNCOMFORTABLE.

THEY HAVE DISCOVERED THAT WHAT HITHERTO APPEARED TO BE GOD-GIVEN RIGHTS TO ECONOMIC MANIPULATION OR FAVOUR, ARE IN FACT IN THE GIFT OF POPULARLY ELECTED GOVERNMENTS.

AND THE FACT THAT THERE CAN BE A SOCIAL MOTIVE IN ECONOMIC PLANNING, RATHER THAN A PROFIT MOTIVE, HAS IN SOME CASES AND FOR SOME PEOPLE BEEN EQUIVALENT TO REALIZING THAT THE POLITICAL WORLD IS NOT, AFTER ALL, FLAT.

WELL, WE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA HAVE FOR SOME TIME REJECTED FLAT-EARTH THEORIES. THE ONLY TROUBLE HAS BEEN THAT THEY PERSIST IN VICTORIA, NEW SOUTH WALES AND QUEENSLAND.

AS A CONSEQUENCE, EVEN THOUGH THINKING MEN APPLAUD THE IDEA, FOR INSTANCE, OF THE AUSTRALIAN STATES HANDING OVER TO THE COMMONWEALTH THEIR PRICE CONTROL POWERS, THERE'S NOT MUCH SUPPORT FOR THE IDEA AMONG THE EASTERN STATES WHERE THE WHOLE NOTION APPARENTLY SMACKS OF DANGEROUS RADICALISM, AND THAT FRIGHTENING PROSPECT, TO 19TH CENTURY MEN, CENTRAL ECONOMIC PLANNING.

IT IS CLEAR THAT THE GHOST OF ADAM SMITH'S IS WELL, AND MOVING, IN EASTERN AUSTRALIA.

THEREFORE, SIR, IN WELCOMING YOU TONIGHT, MAY I PAY TRIBUTE TO THE FINE TRADITION OF AMERICAN LIBERAL HUMANISM TO WHICH YOU BELONG, AND TO ITS VITALLY IMPORTANT INFLUENCE ON THE EXORCISM OF THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC GHOSTS OF BOTH YOUR OWN COUNTRY AND OF THE WESTERN WORLD.

THE EFFECTIVE CONTINUANCE OF DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL SYSTEMS WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE ABILITY OF GOVERNMENTS TO SUFFER DISSENT, AND OF THEIR PEOPLE TO LEARN FROM DISSENT. THESE PROCESSES ARE AS VITAL HERE AS THEY ARE IN THE UNITED STATES; AND IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT I HAVE VERY GREAT PLEASURE IN WELCOMING YOU HERE THIS EVENING.

THANK YOU.