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**Title:**

Radio talk for 5KA by Don Dunstan - The Festival Hall

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RADIO TALK FOR 5-K.A.

BY DON DUNSTAN.

SUBJECT: THE FESTIVAL HALL.

BROADCAST 4/2/70.

GOOD EVENING: NOW THAT THE FINAL PLANS FOR THE ADELAIDE FESTIVAL THEATRE ARE NEARING COMPLETION, IT'S POSSIBLE TO SEE WHAT WE'RE GOING TO GET FOR OUR FOUR AND THREE-QUARTER MILLION DOLLARS. I THINK PERHAPS THE FIRST THING THAT WE CAN SAY IS THAT WE'RE TO GET A LARGE AND DISTINCTIVE ADDITION TO OUR CITY ARCHITECTURE. I DON'T THINK ANYONE WOULD PRETEND THAT WE ARE TO GAIN A BUILDING THAT WILL CHANGE THE COURSE OF MODERN ARCHITECTURE, BUT NEVERTHELESS AS THE THEATRE IS PLANNED AT THE MOMENT IT IS NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF. SOME PEOPLE MAY DISLIKE THE BUILDING STRONGLY, BUT THEN NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF BUILDING WERE BUILT, THERE IS BOUND TO BE SOME DISSATISFACTION.

BUT TO LOOK AT THE FESTIVAL THEATRE JUST AS A PIECE OF CIVIC ARCHITECTURE IS TO FORGET THAT WHAT WE ARE BUILDING IS INTENDED TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE LIFE OF THE CITY AS A WHOLE. WHEN THE LABOR GOVERNMENT FIRST PROPOSED THAT ADELAIDE SHOULD HAVE A PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE BEHIND GOVERNMENT HOUSE ON LAND THAT AT THE MOMENT IS NOT BEING USED, WE WERE WORKING ON THE ADVICE OF AMERICAN CONSULTANTS WHO WERE ACKNOWLEDGED AS LEADERS IN THEIR FIELD. THEY RECOMMENDED A CENTRE AT A COST OF \$4.8 MILLION DOLLARS WHICH WOULD HAVE INCLUDED A MAJOR THEATRE/ CONCERT HALL SEATING BETWEEN 1600 AND 2,000 PEOPLE, AN EXPERIMENTAL HALL WHICH COULD SEAT UP TO 275 PEOPLE AND WHICH COULD ALSO BE USED FOR A VARIETY OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL FUNCTIONS, A SMALL THEATRE SEATING BETWEEN 700 AND 800 PEOPLE DESIGNED TO BE THE HOME OF A RESIDENT PROFESSIONAL THEATRE COMPANY, PLUS DRESSING ROOMS, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES, PRODUCTION AREAS AND LARGE FOYERS. IT WAS DESIGNED FOR MAXIMUM USE. IT WAS CLOSE TO THE CITY AND PARKING AREAS AND THE UNIVERSITY. THE LAND WAS FREE, AND THERE WAS NO NOISE PROBLEM. WHAT WE COULD HAVE GOT FOR ABOUT THE SAME AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT IS BEING SPENT ON THE PRESENT FESTIVAL HALL WOULD HAVE BEEN A CENTRE FOR

EVERYONE, A COMMUNITY CENTRE OF THE KIND THAT ADELAIDE AND THE ADELAIDE FESTIVAL DESPERATELY NEEDS AT THE MOMENT.

BY CONTRAST, WHEN THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT SHIFTED THE SITE FROM THE UNUSED LAND AT THE BACK OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE AND PLACED IT NEAR WHERE THE OLD CITY BATHS STOOD, A WHOLE HOST OF PROBLEMS PRESENTED THEMSELVES. FIRSTLY THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO DISPENSE WITH THE IDEA OF A COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN IN USE CONTINUALLY, AND REPLACED IT WITH WHAT CAN NOW BE SEEN AS A LARGE GRAND THEATRE HALL, SUITABLE ONLY TO LARGE AND GRAND AND RARE THEATRE, OPERA AND BALLET PRODUCTIONS, AND TO THE ADELAIDE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. NO DOUBT THE OCCASIONAL CONVENTION AND POP CONCERT CAN BE ADDED TO THE LIST, BUT THERE WILL BE A REAL DANGER OF HAVING A LARGE HALL WITH OFTEN NOTHING LARGE ENOUGH TO PUT IN IT. AS THE FESTIVAL THEATRE IS PLANNED IT IS AN ASSET, BUT IT IS CLEARLY NOT AN IDEAL ASSET.

BUT IT IS IN THE FINANCING THAT PERHAPS THE BIGGEST PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN FOUND BY MR. HALL'S GOVERNMENT. BY PLACING THE FESTIVAL HALL IN ELDER PARK, ADDITIONAL COSTS WERE ADDED TO THE ORIGINAL IDEA BECAUSE BUILDINGS HAD TO BE PULLED DOWN, ALTERNATIVE FACILITIES HAVE HAD TO BE FOUND FOR THE RAILWAYS INSTITUTE, A SEWERAGE MAIN HAD TO BE RE-SITED, AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILWAY PLANNED AS PART OF THE METROPOLITAN ADELAIDE TRANSPORT STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS HAD TO BE RE-ALIGNED. ALL THIS HAS MEANT COSTS THAT DO NOT APPEAR IN THE ACTUAL FESTIVAL THEATRE ESTIMATE. AND, FINALLY, YESTERDAY IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT IN ADDITION TO HAVING SPECIAL RUBBER PADS INCORPORATED IN THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE THEATRE TO CUT BACK VIBRATION FROM THE SUBWAY TRAINS, FURTHER SOUND-PROOFING MAY BE NECESSARY IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RAILWAY'S TUNNEL AND TRACK, OR A SPECIAL KIND OF RUBBER TYRE MAY HAVE TO BE FITTED TO ALL THE TRAINS THAT

USE THE SUBWAY. CLEARLY HERE ARE COST FACTORS THAT ARE COMPLETELY UNKNOWN AND UNKNOWABLE AT THIS STAGE. INDEED, AMERICAN EXPERTS HAVE ESTIMATED THAT THE TOTAL COST OF SOUND ISOLATING THE FESTIVAL HALL ON ITS PRESENT SITE WITH THE SUBWAY THERE SHOULD RUN TO AS MUCH AS \$4M TO DO THE JOB COMPLETELY EFFICIENTLY.

ADELAIDE'S FESTIVAL THEATRE WILL GIVE THE CITY A LARGE AUDITORIUM AND SOME 2,000 SEATS, A STAGE WITH A TOTAL AREA OF 12,600 SQUARE FEET, A TOWER IN WHICH COMPLEX SCENERY CAN BE STORED AND LOWERED ON TO THE STAGE, A REHEARSAL ROOM AND A RECEPTION ROOM. IT IS, AS I SAID BEFORE, A GRAND THEATRE HALL SUITABLE FOR GRAND OCCASIONS. THE PITY ABOUT IT ALL IS THAT THE ALTERNATIVE - THE COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE - AT MUCH LESS COST WOULD HAVE GIVEN US A CENTRE IN WHICH WE WOULD GET MAXIMUM USE AND MAXIMUM USE FOR LOCAL PEOPLE. WHAT WE DO NEED TO MAKE THE FESTIVAL A SATISFACTORY FESTIVAL IS TO ENCOURAGE LOCAL PERFORMANCES AND THAT MEANS WE HAVE GOT TO HAVE A CENTRE IN WHICH LOCAL PERFORMANCES CAN TAKE PLACE. AT THE MOMENT WE ARE ERECTING A GRAND HALL FOR THE LOCAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND OTHERWISE ONLY FOR LARGE VISITING COMPANIES.

GOOD NIGHT.