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Title:
Speech at the opening of 'Readymix House'

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR DUNSTAN, AT THE OPENING OF
"READYMIX HOUSE".

14.9.73

MR SULLIVAN, MR QUINN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ASKING ME HERE TODAY TO OPEN THE READYMIX GROUP'S NEW HEADQUARTERS.

YOUR MOVE FROM EAST TERRACE, AND THE INVESTMENT OF MORE THAN A QUARTER OF A MILLION DOLLARS WHICH IT ENTAILED FOLLOWS A REMARKABLE PERIOD OF EXPANSION.

READYMIX HAS A RECORD OF SUSTAINED GROWTH IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA. BUT IN THE PAST TWO YEARS OR SO IT HAS BEEN QUITE REMARKABLE WITH SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION ACROSS THE STATE AND A CAPITAL OUTLAY OF SOME \$3.5 MILLION.

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THIS, OBVIOUSLY, IS THE RESULT OF VIGOROUS AND FORWARD-LOOKING MANAGEMENT AS WELL AS AN INDICATION OF YOUR CONFIDENCE - WHICH I COMPLETELY SHARE - IN THE STRENGTH OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY.

IT IS ALSO A REFLECTION OF THE IMPACT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY IN THE USE OF CONCRETE AS A BUILDING MATERIAL.

I SUPPOSE THE AVERAGE MAN LOOKS ON YOUR INDUSTRY AS A PRETTY PROSAIC SORT OF BUSINESS. BUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN IT THIS CENTURY HAS PROFOUNDLY ALTERED THE VERY APPEARANCE OF THE WORLD WE LIVE IN.

IT WAS ONLY ABOUT A CENTURY AGO THAT A BRITISH WRITER DISCUSSING THE THEN NOVEL TECHNIQUE OF BUILDING A COUPLE OF WELSH COTTAGES OUT OF CONCRETE REPORTED SOMEWHAT BREATHLESSLY THAT THE RESULT WAS A BUILDING: "REQUIRING NEXT TO NO REPAIRS, MAKING CLEANLINESS EASY AND INSPIRING THE PEASANT WITH PROPER

SELF-RESPECT, MINGLED WITH GRATITUDE TO HIS LANDLORD."

FIRED WITH ENTHUSIASM THE SAME WRITER WENT ON TO SUGGEST THAT THIS "SNUG AND HANDSOME" BUILDING HAD ALMOST OF NECESSITY TO NEATNESS OF DRESS, A NEATLY KEPT GARDEN AND THE CULTIVATION OF FLOWERS.

WHAT IT DID LEAD TO, HOWEVER, WAS NOT A DEFERENTIAL FORELOCK-TUGGING PEASANTRY BUT TO THE CURRENT TECHNOLOGICAL ARCHITECTURE THAT STEMS FROM THE WORK OF SUCH PIONEERS AS MAILLART, NERVI AND CANDELA AND BUILDINGS, BRIDGES AND OTHER STRUCTURES WHICH ARE NOTABLE FOR THEIR CLARITY, ELEGANCE, SIMPLICITY - PRECISION. TWO SOUTH AUSTRALIAN EXAMPLES WHICH COME READILY TO MIND ARE THE FESTIVAL THEATRE AND THE KINGSTON

BRIDGE. AND THERE ARE OTHER ADVANTAGES TOO. AS A CITIZEN I AM DELIGHTED BY THE BEAUTY OF THOSE STRUCTURES. AS SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S TREASURER I AM ENCHANTED BY THEIR ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES.

IT WAS, I SUGGEST, A SIMILAR COMBINATION OF ATTITUDES (AS WELL AS A NATURAL SENSE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS) WHICH PROMPTED YOU TO SEEK HEADQUARTERS MADE OF CONCRETE.

THE READYMIX GROUP AND THE STATE GOVERNMENT HAVE A LONG PERIOD OF ASSOCIATION THROUGH YOUR SUPPLIES TO PUBLIC BUILDING, ROAD MAKING AND HOUSING WORKS WHICH WE UNDERTAKE.

THESE NEW HEADQUARTERS WILL ENABLE YOU TO CONTINUE AND IMPROVE YOUR SERVICE TO US AND YOUR MANY OTHER CLIENTS. IT PROVIDES A NEW BASE FOR WHAT WILL I'M SURE PROVE TO BE A CONTINUING STORY OF EXPANSION AND PROSPERITY. IT GIVES ME VERY MUCH PLEASURE THEREFORE OFFICIALLY TO DECLARE THESE NEW PREMISES OPEN.

THANK YOU.