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SENATE ELECTION

Comment by the Prime Minister, Mr John Gorton

It is still too early to predict what the results of the election will be in terms of seats after the distribution of preferences.

I am, of course, disappointed at the low primary vote received by the Government.

But I am pleased that those who withdrew their primary votes from the Government refused to give them to the Opposition.

It seems probable that the Government's primary vote will be down by about 5 per cent and the Opposition's primary vote will be down by about 4 per cent, compared with the last general election.

The DLP deserve congratulations for their success which I believe shows public support for the policies on defence advanced by both the Government and the DLP.

A combination of Government and DLP figures shows a substantial anti-Labor vote, particularly in Queensland and Victoria.

But that does not alter the fact that I had hoped the Government would do much better in the primary vote than it has done; it is clearly up to us to try and win back public support by a positive, continuing programme of government in the next two years.

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CANBERRA,  
22 November 1970