

PRIME MINISTER

75/17
20th NOVEMBER 1975

MR WHITLAM'S ADDRESS

MR WHITLAM HAS AGAIN TRIED TO SUGGEST THAT AUSTRALIA'S PROBLEMS ARE CAUSED BY EVENTS THAT HAVE OCCURRED OVERSEAS.

HE IGNORES THE REPORT OF HIS OWN TREASURY AND WHICH WAS ATTACHED TO MR HAYDEN'S BUDGET SPEECH IN AUGUST.

THIS REPORT INDICATED THAT AUSTRALIA'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WERE BASICALLY CAUSED IN AUSTRALIA BY HIS GOVERNMENT.

MR WHITLAM IGNORES ALSO THE REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND AND THE ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT WHICH AGREED THAT OUR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WERE MADE IN AUSTRALIA.

MR WHITLAM IGNORES THE FACT THAT INFLATION AROUND THE WORLD WAS CAUSED BY A THREE HUNDRED PER CENT. INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF OIL WHICH AUSTRALIA DID NOT SUFFER BECAUSE OF THE EXPLORATION POLICIES PURSUED UNDER A LIBERAL/NATIONAL COUNTRY PARTY GOVERNMENT.

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MR WHITLAM IGNORES THE FACT THAT DURING THE FIRST 72 YEARS OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL EXPENDITURE REACHED ONLY THE ANNUAL FIGURE OF TEN THOUSAND MILLION DOLLARS, BUT THAT DURING THE THREE YEARS OF HIS ADMINISTRATION IT MORE THAN DOUBLED TO TWENTY-TWO THOUSAND MILLION DOLLARS.

THESE FIGURES ARE ALMOST BEYOND THE COMPREHENSION OF ORDINARY PEOPLE.

BUT THIS INCREASE IN EXPENDITURE IS WHAT HAS CAUSED AUSTRALIA'S PROBLEMS OF INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

IT IS BECAUSE OF THIS INCREASE THAT SCHOOL LEAVERS THIS YEAR WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FIND JOBS AND THAT PEOPLE GRADUATING FROM UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO USE THEIR SKILLS.

MR WHITLAM HAS ATTRIBUTED AUSTRALIA'S ECONOMIC FAILURES TO HIS FIRST TREASURER MR CREAM, TO TREASURY ADVICE, TO RISING WAGES, AND TO DR CAIRNS HIS SECOND TREASURER.

MR WHITLAM IS CONSISTENT IN TRYING TO PRETEND THAT HE IS INNOCENT OF THE SINS OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND CONSISTENT IN ALWAYS TRYING TO LAY THE BLAME ON SOMEBODY ELSE.

HOW COULD ANYONE BELIEVE MR WHITLAM'S CLAIM TONIGHT THAT UNEMPLOYMENT WILL GO TO ONE MILLION UNDER OUR GOVERNMENT ?

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UNDER LIBERAL-NATIONAL COUNTRY PARTY GOVERNMENT, AUSTRALIA ENJOYED THE HIGHEST EMPLOYMENT AND THE LOWEST INFLATION IN OUR HISTORY.

MR WHITLAM WAS PRIME MINISTER WHEN UNEMPLOYMENT REACHED ITS HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE THE GREAT DEPRESSION. HE WAS PRIME MINISTER WHEN INFLATION ROSE TO RECORD LEVELS. HE IS RESPONSIBLE.