

NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

8 DECEMBER, 1975

AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE LAST QUARTER OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, AUSTRALIA FACES A DIFFICULT AND TESTING TIME - AT HOME AND ABROAD.

AT HOME - IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE - WE ARE CONFRONTED WITH THE KIND OF ECONOMIC CRISIS MANY OF US BELIEVED COULD NEVER HAPPEN HERE - A CRISIS COMPOUNDED OF HIGH AND RISING UNEMPLOYMENT AND HIGH INFLATION.

- A CRISIS THAT SHOULD NEVER HAVE OCCURRED.

ABROAD, WE ARE FACING A WORLD OF UNCERTAINTY AND INSTABILITY - OF GREAT GLOBAL ^{PROBLEMS AND REGIONAL} PROBLEMS WHICH WILL REQUIRE GREAT INGENUITY AND GOODWILL TO SOLVE.

BEYOND THESE PROBLEMS THERE ARE OTHER LESS OBVIOUS BUT NONE THE LESS, VITALLY IMPORTANT ISSUES WHICH CONCERN THE VERY BASIS OF OUR WAY OF LIFE AND STYLE OF GOVERNMENT.

IT IS ABOUT THESE THAT I AM GOING TO TALK TODAY.

- * THESE ISSUES CONCERN THE VERY MANNER IN WHICH AUSTRALIA IS TO BE GOVERNED OVER THE NEXT QUARTER CENTURY AND BEYOND.

- * THEY CONCERN THE RELATIONSHIP OF GOVERNMENT TO THE PEOPLE, AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH PEOPLE CAN CONTROL THEIR OWN LIVES IN A SOCIETY IN WHICH GOVERNMENTS TEND TO BE INCREASINGLY INTRUSIVE AND DEMANDING.

- * THEY CONCERN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS AND THE OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF OUR SOCIETY - ESPECIALLY LARGE BUSINESSES AND LARGE TRADE UNIONS. WE MUST MAKE SURE THESE INSTITUTIONS REMAIN RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITHIN THEM.

- * AND FINALLY, AMONG THESE CRUCIAL ISSUES, IS THE QUESTION WHETHER WE, AS A PEOPLE, CAN FIND A RENEWED FAITH AND COMMITMENT TO OUR CAPACITY TO PROVIDE A DECENT LIFE FOR EVERY PERSON WHILE - AT THE SAME TIME - ENCOURAGING THE VERY BEST OUR PEOPLE CAN OFFER.

AUSTRALIA IS CHANGING.

THE WORLD IS CHANGING.

AUSTRALIANS INCREASINGLY RECOGNISE THAT THE OLD
CONFLICTS AND DIVISIONS HAVE LESS AND LESS
MEANING.

THERE ARE MANY TRADE UNIONISTS WHO NO LONGER FEEL
ANY IDENTIFICATION WITH THE PARTY OF THEIR
TRADITIONAL SUPPORT.

THEY NO LONGER FEEL - FOR OBVIOUS REASONS - THAT
THERE IS ANY NECESSARY RELATION BETWEEN THEIR OWN
NEEDS AND THE POLICIES OF THAT PARTY.

INCOME AND OPPORTUNITIES IN AUSTRALIA ARE MORE
EQUALLY DISTRIBUTED THAN IN ALMOST ANY OTHER
COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, DESPITE THE EXISTENCE OF
SIGNIFICANT POCKETS OF DISADVANTAGE AND REAL NEED.

THE CHALLENGES THAT FACE US NOW ARE NEW.
IN MANY WAYS THEY ARE EXCITING. THE DEGREE OF
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY WE HAVE PROVIDES
AN UNCOMMON CHANSE FOR AUSTRALIA.

ARNOLD TOYNBEE WROTE TWELVE VOLUMES EXAMINING
THE RISE AND FALL OF SOCIETIES AND CIVILISATIONS.
HE CONCLUDED THAT THE ESSENTIAL FACTORS IN A
SUCCESSFUL RESPONSE TO CHALLENGE WERE THE QUALITY
OF GOVERNMENT AND THE CHARACTER OF THE PEOPLE.

IF WE FACE OUR PROBLEMS SQUARELY - AND DO OUR
BEST TO UNDERSTAND THEM - I AM CONFIDENT WE CAN
MEET THE CHALLENGES.

SIR ROBERT MENZIES - IN HIS BOOK "THE MEASURE OF THE YEARS" - LAID DOWN HIS VIEW OF THE OBLIGATIONS OF AN OPPOSITION PARTY. HE SAID:
THAT A PARTY IN OPPOSITION HAS:

~~"I FOUND THAT OPPOSITION PROVIDED NOT ONLY A GREAT AND ENTHRALLING OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE A NEW AND COHESIVE NATIONAL PARTY, BUT ALSO"~~ AN OBLIGATION TO RETHINK POLICIES TO LOOK FORWARD, TO DEVISE A BODY OF IDEAS AT ONCE SOUND AND PROGRESSIVE."

"OPPOSITION MUST BE REGARDED AS A GREAT CONSTRUCTIVE PERIOD IN THE LIFE OF A PARTY. PROPERLY CONSIDERED, NOT A PERIOD IN THE WILDERNESS, BUT A PERIOD OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE HIGH RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH YOU HOPE WILL COME".

WE IN THE LIBERAL AND NATIONAL COUNTRY PARTIES
HAVE SPEND OUR TIME IN OPPOSITION PREPARING ONE
OF THE MOST FAR-REACHING, EXCITING AND PROGRESSIVE
PROGRAMMES WE HAVE EVER ATTEMPTED.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT IF THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE
APPROVE OUR POLICIES ON DECEMBER 13, WE CAN MAKE
AN EFFECTIVE START TO MEETING THESE PROBLEMS. *WATCH FACE AUSTRALIA.*

IT WILL BE OUR OBJECTIVE TO:

- * BRING INFLATION UNDER CONTROL AND GET
UNEMPLOYMENT DOWN AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE.
- * ESTABLISH A STYLE AND FRAMEWORK OF GOVERNMENT
THAT WILL LEAD TO EFFECTIVE POLICY FORMULATION
AND DECISION-MAKING.
- * MAKE GOVERNMENT TAXATION POLICIES MORE OPEN
AND HONEST.
- * ESTABLISH CO-OPERATIVE -NOT CONFLICTING -

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
AND STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

- * STRENGTHEN THE AUTONOMY, RESPONSIBILITY AND FLEXIBILITY OF LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT CLOSEST TO THE PEOPLE AND REVERSE THE EXCESSIVE CENTRALISATION OF POWER IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

- * ENCOURAGE, AND WHERE NECESSARY, LEGALLY ESTABLISH, PROCEDURES THAT WILL MAKE SURE THAT LARGE BUSINESS ENTERPRISES REMAIN RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE WHO WORK IN THEM. SIMILARLY, WE WILL ESTABLISH PROCEDURES WHICH ENSURE THAT TRADE UNIONS REMAIN RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THEIR MEMBERS AND ARE NOT CAUGHT UP IN THE SEARCH FOR POWER FOR POWER'S SAKE.

- * ENSURE THAT ALL PEOPLE - THE SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED AS WELL AS THE BETTER-OFF - HAVE MAXIMUM FREEDOM OF CHOICE NOT ONLY IN THE GOODS THEY BUY, BUT IN EDUCATIONAL, WELFARE, AND OTHER SERVICES AS WELL.

- * AS PART OF THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF CHOICE AND DIVERSITY - STRENGTHEN TOLERANCE AND UNDERSTANDING OF DIFFERING LIFE STYLES. AUSTRALIA HAS MOVED BEYOND THE AGE OF A NARROW ANGLO-CONFORMITY. GOVERNMENT MUST RECOGNISE THIS.

- * FINALLY, ENSURE THAT ALL PEOPLE HAVE OPPORTUNITIES AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO ACHIEVE OF THEIR BEST, SO THAT ALL AUSTRALIANS CAN BENEFIT.

ONLY IN THIS WAY CAN AUSTRALIA BE A NATION OF INDEPENDENT PEOPLE CONFIDENT IN THEIR ABILITIES TO ACHIEVE AND MASTER THEIR DESTINY.

- ONLY IN THIS WAY CAN ALL AUSTRALIANS HAVE THAT STRONG FOUNDATION OF SELF-RESPECT ON WHICH TOLERANCE AND GENUINE AND WILLING CO-OPERATION CAN BE BASED.

IF THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE APPROVE OUR APPROACH
ON DECEMBER 13 WE WILL ESTABLISH A STYLE OF
GOVERNMENT THROUGH WHICH WE CAN GIVE EFFECT TO
AND DEVELOP OUR POLICIES.

ONE OF OUR FIRST CONCERNS WILL BE TO SECURE THE
INTEGRITY AND PROFESSIONAL CHARACTER OF THE PUBLIC
SERVICE FREE FROM POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS.

- * OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT CAN ONLY WORK EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY WITH A POLITICALLY NEUTRAL PUBLIC SERVICE.

- * LEGAL PROCEDURES WILL BE ESTABLISHED WHICH WILL SECURE THE BEST APPOINTMENTS TO THIS END. THESE PROCEDURES WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO THE PUBLIC SERVICE ACT.

- * THESE PROCEDURES WILL ENSURE THAT SUITABLE CANDIDATES FROM WITHIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE ARE NOT PASSED OVER WHILE NOT PRECLUDING APPOINTMENTS FROM OUTSIDE THE SERVICE.

1. PSB - TO PUT FORWARD SHORT LIST OF SUITABLE CANDIDATES FROM WITHIN PUBLIC SERVICE.
2. PSB CHAIRMAN TO CONSULT WITH SENIOR PERMANENT HEADS.
3. SHORT LIST TO MINISTER CONCERNED AND PRIME MINISTER
4. IF DOUBTS, CHAIRMAN PSB CONSULTED - IF ADDITIONAL NAMES PUT FORWARD DO NOT DISPEL DOUBTS VACANCY SHOULD BE ADVERTISED.
5. IF ADVERTISED - HIGH LEVEL SELECTION COMMITTEE (INC. CHAIRMAN PSB AT LEAST ONE PERMANENT HEAD AND OUTSIDERS) TO INTERVIEW CANDIDATES.
6. SELECTION COMMITTEE LISTS 3 OR MORE MOST SUITABLE CANDIDATES IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE - GOES TO MINISTER AND P.M.

7. MINISTER INTERVIEWS CANDIDATES PUT FORWARD.

IN THIS WAY PROPER PROCEDURES WILL BE FOLLOWED
AND THE INTEGRITY OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE PROTECTED.

8. GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE PRECLUDED FROM APPOINTING
OUTSIDERS WITHOUT ADVERTISEMENT - BUT IN SUCH
CASES IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT SUCCEEDING
GOVERNMENTS CAN REVIEW SUCH AN APPOINTMENT.
- IN OTHER WORDS, SUCH AN APPOINTMENT WOULD
HAVE NO PERMANENCY ATTACHED TO IT.

THESE RULES APPLY TO ALL FUTURE APPOINTMENTS.
THEY WILL NOT APPLY RETROSPECTIVELY. WE WILL
NOT ALTER THE RULES UNDER WHICH PAST APPOINTMENTS
HAVE BEEN MADE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ONE MISTAKE
CAN BE RECTIFIED BY A SECOND MISTAKE.

UNDER THE LIBERAL-NATIONAL COUNTRY PARTY GOVERNMENT
THE PERMANENT HEAD OF A DEPARTMENT WILL BE
EXPECTED TO BE THE SENIOR ADVISER TO THE
MINISTER.

HE WILL BE EXPECTED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT NOT ONLY INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM HIS DEPARTMENT SOURCES, BUT ALSO INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM THE WIDER COMMUNITY.

: OUTSIDE ADVICE WILL BE - AND OUGHT TO BE ACTIVELY SOUGHT.

: ALL GROUPS AND SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY MUST HAVE THE RIGHT TO PUT THEIR VIEWS BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT.

BUT THE PROCEDURES FOR OFFERING ADVICE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO BE A BATTLE-FIELD OF ENDLESS CONFLICT.

WE WILL ENSURE THAT THE PROTECTION OF PUBLIC SERVICE INTEGRITY AND PROFESSIONALISM, DOES NOT PLACE A WALL BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY. THIS WOULD BE A DISASTER.

PARLIAMENT ITSELF MUST BE REVIVED AS THE CENTRAL FORUM OF OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT.

* IF THE LIBERAL-NCP ARE RETURNED ON DECEMBER 13, MAJOR POLICY ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE IN THE PARLIAMENT.

AS PART OF OUR PLAN TO REVIVE PARLIAMENT, OUR POLICY OF TAX INDEXATION WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY.

ONE OF THE MOST INIQUITOUS EFFECTS OF INFLATION HAS BEEN THE RAPIDLY INCREASING TAX BURDEN OF THE LAST FEW YEARS.

PEOPLE ARE PAYING EVERY YEAR A LARGER PROPORTION OF THEIR INCOMES IN TAXATION THOUGH THIS HAS NEVER BEEN SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED BY THE PARLIAMENT.

A BASIC PRINCIPLE OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN OVERTURNED BY INFLATION.

UNDER INFLATION TAXATION INCREASES AUTOMATICALLY IF PARLIAMENT TAKES NO DECISION. UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS PARLIAMENT HAS TO TAKE AN INITIATIVE ONLY IF IT WISHES TO STOP THE INCREASE IN TAXATION.

THE PROTECTION AFFORDED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE REQUIREMENT THAT PARLIAMENT MUST APPROVE INCREASES IN TAXATION HAS BEEN ALMOST NULLIFIED BY INFLATION.

THESE UNAUTHORISED TAX INCREASES HAVE BEEN A MAJOR -
IF NOT THE MAJOR - FACTOR IN INFLATIONARY WAGE
DEMANDS AND THE DESTRUCTION OF BUSINESS PROFITABILITY
AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES.

OUR PROGRAMME OF TAX INDEXATION WILL ESTABLISH THE
PRINCIPLE OF PARLIAMENTARY CONTROL OF TAX INCREASES

- IT WILL ESTABLISH ONCE AND FOR ALL THE PRINCIPLE
OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY FOR TAX INCREASES.

OUR TAX REFORMS WILL NOT MERELY BE A MAJOR ELEMENT
IN ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

THEY WILL MAKE DEBATES ON TAXATION MATTERS MEAN WHAT
THEY SEEM TO MEAN.

THEY WILL BRING INTO THE OPEN SOME OF THE MOST
IMPORTANT DECISIONS ANY GOVERNMENT CAN TAKE.

THEY WILL MAKE GOVERNMENTS IN AUSTRALIA
HONEST AGAIN.

- * THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OTHER REFORMS WHICH WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE THE LEGISLATIVE PERFORMANCE OF THE PARLIAMENT AND WHICH COULD BE INTRODUCED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE REFORMS OF PARLIAMENT AS AN INSTITUTION, WOULD BE TO IMPROVE THE SCOPE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF ITS COMMITTEE SYSTEM.

- * AN ESTIMATES OR EXPENDITURE COMMITTEE SUCH AS EXISTS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS WOULD DO MUCH TO IMPROVE PARLIAMENT'S CAPACITY TO CONTROL GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND WATCH OVER THE ADMINISTRATION. IT WOULD BE A COMMITTEE SITTING THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AND EXAMINING THE PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES ADOPTED BY DEPARTMENTS IN THE FORMATION OF ESTIMATES.

* I BELIEVE THERE IS ALSO A VALUABLE ROLE FOR A STEERING COMMITTEE TO ASSIST IN THE PASSAGE OF NON-CONTROVERSIAL LEGISLATION, SUCH A COMMITTEE COULD DECIDE TO DIRECT LEGISLATION EITHER TO SPECIAL PURPOSE COMMITTEES OR TO THE WHOLE HOUSE, SUCH A COMMITTEE COULD PROMOTE MORE CONSIDERED DEBATE IN AN APPROPRIATE FORUM.

THESE ARE JUST TWO EXAMPLES OF PRACTICAL REFORMS OF PARLIAMENT.

IT WILL BE ONE OF OUR PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES TO IMPROVE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PARLIAMENT AND SO STRENGTHEN ITS AUTHORITY AND PRACTICAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA.

A FURTHER PRE-CONDITION FOR THE EFFECTIVE OPERATION
OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM IS A SYSTEM OF
CABINET GOVERNMENT WHICH CAN ARRIVE AT CO-ORDINATED
GOVERNMENT POLICIES.

- MINISTERIAL INITIATIVE IS ESSENTIAL BUT THE CABINET - A CABINET OF REASONABLE SIZE - MUST ENSURE THAT THESE INITIATIVES FORM PART OF AN OVERALL APPROACH TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF NATIONAL GOALS.

IF THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE SUPPORT US ON DECEMBER 13 WE WILL IMMEDIATELY ASSERT THE CENTRAL ROLE OF CABINET IN DECIDING NATIONAL POLICY.

ON A BASIS OF CABINET RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
WE CAN ESTABLISH SOUND MANAGEMENT IN THE NATION'S
AFFAIRS.

AN EFFECTIVELY OPERATING FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
WILL PROVIDE THE FOUNDATION TO IMPLEMENT OUR
THREE YEAR PROGRAMME FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

NOT MERELY MUST THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BE ABLE
TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT ITS OWN POLICIES
EFFECTIVELY.

IT MUST ALSO BE ABLE TO WORK EFFECTIVELY WITH
OTHER GOVERNMENTS. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
SHOULD FACILITATE - NOT HINDER - STATE AND
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN FORMING AND IMPLEMENTING
THE POLICIES APPROPRIATE TO THEIR OWN AREAS.

• AUSTRALIA IS A FEDERAL COUNTRY - AND WILL REMAIN
SO. IT WILL REMAIN SO FOR GOOD REASON.

* AUSTRALIA HAS VERY CLEAR AND NATURAL
REGIONS LARGELY REPRESENTED BY THE STATES.

AS IN THE UNITED STATES, THE AUSTRALIAN SENATE
REFLECTS THAT FACT. INDEED THE AMERICAN FOUNDING
FATHERS GAVE THEIR SENATE MORE SUBSTANTIAL
POWERS EVEN THAN OUR SENATE - POWERS WHICH
HAVE LED IN AMERICA TO THE STATES' HOUSE BECOMING
THE PREDOMINANT CHAMBER.

EVEN IF WE HAD NO STATES, IT WOULD STILL BE
NECESSARY IN THE INTERESTS OF EFFECTIVE
POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION TO
FORMALLY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT POLICIES WOULD HAVE
TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE GREAT NATURAL REGIONS
OF AUSTRALIA.

THE FEDERAL STRUCTURE OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT
IS CRITICALLY NECESSARY FROM ANOTHER VIEWPOINT
AS WELL.

IT IS INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT THAT A POLITICALLY AWARE AND ACTIVE POPULATION, SHOULD BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE - AND PARTICIPATE EFFECTIVELY - IN POLITICAL DECISIONS OF IMPORTANCE.

- AS OUR SOCIETY BECOMES LARGER AND MORE COMPLEX - IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT LOCAL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE REVITALISED.

INCREASING THE CENTRALISATION OF GOVERNMENTAL POWER IS POSITIVELY DANGEROUS.

- THE MORE POWER IS CENTRALISED THE LESS IS IT SUBJECT TO POPULAR INFLUENCE AND CONTROL.

A HIGHLY CENTRALISED GOVERNMENT SEEKING MORE AND MORE POWER FOR ITSELF IS TOTALLY INAPPROPRIATE TO A COMPLEX, DIVERSE, CHANGING AND WELL-EDUCATED SOCIETY.

IT IS TOTALLY INAPPROPRIATE TO A COUNTRY AS FAR FLUNG AS AUSTRALIA.

- INSTEAD OF CENTRAL CONTROL THERE SHOULD BE IMPROVED PROCEDURES FOR CO-ORDINATION AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT ON MATTERS OF COMMON CONCERN.

OUR REFORMS TO FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND THE COUNCIL FOR INTER-GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS WE WILL ESTABLISH, WILL DO MORE TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES THAN ANY REFORM TO THE FEDERAL SYSTEM SINCE FEDERATION

THESE REFORMS WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS TO PLAN AHEAD IN A WAY WHICH HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE IN THE PAST.

THEY ARE PART OF A BROADER PROGRAMME TO INCREASE THE SUBSTANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

- OUR SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY FOR EXAMPLE, IN LINE WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HENDERSON COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO POVERTY, PLACES SPECIAL WEIGHT ON THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE CO-ORDINATION AND PROVISION OF WELFARE SERVICES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.

- WITH SUCH AN EMPHASIS IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO AVOID THE IMPERSONALITY OF CENTRALLY PROVIDED SERVICES AND TO TAILOR SERVICES TO THE NEEDS OF THE LOCAL AREA.

THE NEED TO REFORM OUR INSTITUTIONS TO ENSURE
THAT THEY ARE AWARE OF THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS,
AND NOT ^{TO} ~~TO CHANGING-WORLD-AND-THE~~ NEEDS OF
BUREAUCRACY APPLIES, OF COURSE, NOT MERELY TO GOVERNMENT.

IT APPLIES EQUALLY TO BUSINESS AND THE TRADE UNIONS.

NO ORGANISATION, WHETHER IT BE A POLITICAL PARTY,
A BUSINESS, OR A UNION HAS ANY INHERENT RIGHT TO
SURVIVAL.

ITS JUSTIFICATION IS THE SERVICES IT PROVIDES TO
INDIVIDUALS.

COMPANIES, FOR EXAMPLE, FIND THEIR JUSTIFICATION IN
THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY PROVIDE DECENT JOBS, PROVIDE
WORTHWHILE GOODS AND SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY AND
PROVIDE A GOOD RETURN TO THOSE WHO INVEST IN THEM.
THE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE EXISTENCE OF COMPANIES IS
THE SERVICES THEY PROVIDE TO THE COMMUNITY.

TRADE UNIONS FIND THEIR JUSTIFICATION IN THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY IMPROVE THE CONDITION OF THEIR MEMBERS CONSISTENT WITH THE INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

THE BEST COMPANIES, THE BEST TRADE UNIONS RECOGNISE THIS SOCIAL ^{OBIGATION} ~~OBJECTIVE~~ BUT THERE ARE MANY IN BOTH AREAS THAT DO NOT. WE MUST ENCOURAGE ALL COMPANIES AND ALL TRADE UNIONS TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF THE BEST.

IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THERE IS STILL GREAT SCOPE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF, AND PARTICIPATION IN, DECISIONS ABOUT WORKING CONDITIONS.

IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THERE IS STILL A GREAT NEED TO INCREASE THE FLEXIBILITY WITH WHICH PEOPLE CAN CHOOSE THEIR WORK. THE RIGID 9-5 WORKING HOURS WHICH STILL APPLY IN MANY BUSINESSES PRECLUDE MANY PEOPLE FROM WORKING IN THEM. GREATER FLEXIBILITY OF WORKING HOURS WILL MEET THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES.

THERE IS FURTHER, A GREAT NEED TO IMPROVE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION BY UNION MEMBERS IN THE AFFAIRS OF THEIR UNIONS.

OUR POLICIES DEALING WITH PORTABILITY OF PENSIONS AND SUPERANNUATION SCHEMES, INCREASED WORKS CONSULTATION ON SHOP FLOOR MATTERS, OUR POLICIES ON FLEXIBLE HOURS, SPECIAL FACILITIES FOR WORKING MOTHERS, AND FOR ELECTIONS IN UNIONS AND EMPLOYER ORGANISATIONS WILL ALL MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE OBJECTIVES.

THE AIM OF OUR POLICIES IS TO ENCOURAGE THE GROWTH OF AN AUSTRALIA WHICH IS ADAPTABLE, STRONG AND CAPABLE OF FACING AND SURMOUNTING CHALLENGES.

GOVERNMENT MUST CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A VITAL, DYNAMIC SOCIETY. IT MUST ALSO ENCOURAGE A SENSE OF OUR COMMON INTERESTS AS A PEOPLE.

THE PRESENT ECONOMIC CRISIS CAN ONLY BE
OVERCOME IF THE GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS ITS OBLIGATION
TO POINT THE WAY - IF ITS POLICIES ENCOURAGE THE
COOPERATION OF ALL AUSTRALIANS.

WE IN THE LIBERAL AND NATIONAL COUNTRY PARTIES
PLEDGE OURSELVES TO WORK FOR THAT SPIRIT OF
NATIONAL COOPERATION.

I BELIEVE THAT THE PROGRAMME ON WHICH WE ARE FIGHTING
THIS ELECTION PROVIDES THE BASIS FOR THAT CO-OPERATION

IT IS A PROGRAMME WHICH SEEKS TO ADVANCE THE RIGHT
OF EVERY AUSTRALIAN TO FREEDOM, SELF-RESPECT, AND A
REAL OPPORTUNITY TO FULFIL THEMSELVES IN THEIR LIFE.

IT IS A PROGRAMME WHICH WILL HELP BUILD AN AUSTRALIA
WHICH CAN SURVIVE IN THE UNCERTAIN WORLD IN WHICH
WE LIVE.

IT IS A PROGRAMME WE ARE PROUD TO PLACE BEFORE THE
AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE FOR THEIR JUDGEMENT.