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PRIME MINISTER

ELECTORAL TALK

National attention again focused on Canberra last week.

The Governor-General, Sir John Kerr, officially opened Australia's 30th Federal Parliament.

Following a somewhat incident-packed opening day, both the House of Representatives and the Senate settled down to the real business of Parliament - that is, meaningful and constructive debate during the passage of legislation.

As this is my first talk to my electorate this year, I want to briefly review our immediate objectives as your new government.

You are now all aware that our first task is to bring inflation under control. Only then can there again be enough jobs for all those who want to work.

We have already started on the long road back. We've taken a number of measures to reduce waste, inefficiency and duplication - particularly in the area of Government expenditure.

All told, savings worth about \$360 million have been achieved in this current financial year. This will give us a good base on which to continue our attack on the disproportionate growth in the public sector. We see this as nothing less than a full three year task.

The Government has been forced to look at all expenditures in terms of priority. We will have to make difficult decisions.

No doubt, it will be necessary to cut back on some worthwhile projects which are not urgent. Because of the legacy of inflation left by our predecessors there is no soft alternative, no easy solution.

Along with our actions in dealing with the mammoth Government deficit, we have taken further steps to beat inflation, encourage investment and create job opportunities.

We have also moved quickly to assist farmers overcome many of their problems that stem from inflation.

Our support for rural industry will be based on the objective advice of the Industries Assistance Commission.

Unlike the previous Labour administration we will not disregard this advice just because it happens to concern the welfare and growth of the rural community.

We are energetically pursuing proposals for a Rural Bank and a Farm Income Reserve Fund. When all the advice on these two proposals is to hand I will immediately report our intentions to you.

The Government will enthusiastically promote overseas trade. We will seek to open new markets for Australian products and maintain our trade relations with established markets.

There is not time in this broadcast to talk about our policies and planned legislation in industrial relations, social welfare, environment, consumer affairs, education and so on.

But I do want to stress the point that our long term goals go far beyond merely controlling inflation and getting the economy going again.

We want to encourage the development of Australia where individuals have maximum freedom and independence in the way they achieve their personal goals.

We want to create an atmosphere where individuals are given OPPORTUNITY for self expression and advancement.

We want less not more, Government intervention in people's lives.

I think Sir John Kerr summed up our attitude in his opening speech to the Parliament on Tuesday when he said...

"The Government is not concerned with power for itself.

It is the servant of the Australian people. Its purpose is to work with the people to create an Australian democracy which will be an example to the world of what a free people can achieve."