



PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF 'THE RAY MARTIN SHOW' (WITH PAUL KEATING) -
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E&OE - PROOF ONLY

MARTIN: We now have, first time ever on television or radio together, the Prime Minister, Mr Hawke and Mr Paul Keating, the Treasurer. Would you please welcome them both. I'll tell you what, you talk about wanting to go into television when you finish politics, live television's kind of fun. Thanks for your help, thanks for coming here, very much indeed. Now it gets us to the opening story, I suppose, which, of course, is about the pilots strike. I had to come down from Cairns yesterday. It took me about fifteen hours, including a charter flight, to do it. Why are you so tough with this, Bob?

PM: Because they're exceptionally greedy. They're making a totally unjustified claim which in itself is wrong. But if they were to succeed, they would wreck the whole wage-fixing system in this country which has produced for the great bulk of Australians a much better way. We've created one and a half million jobs because ordinary wage and salary earners have exercised restraint.

MARTIN: But why haven't you been this tough on judges or politicians or businessmen?

PM: Judges are not within the Industrial Relations Commission system, the award structure system. They have, in fact, exercised enormous restraint over the time. They've had decisions and recommendations of the Tribunal knocked back as have politicians. In respect to the business community, Paul and I have been as tough as we possibly can to ask them to restrain.

MARTIN: But I read at the weekend there's something like three hundred and eighty Australians who earn more than a billion dollars a year. That's not restraint, is it?

KEATING: Maybe in the top end of the executive area, that's a possibility. But, as Bob said, it's not part of the general wage system and we've been running a wage system which has been delivering as large as possible wage increases as the economy can afford, plus tax cuts, plus employment.

MARTIN: Put it in perspective for us though if you will, Paul. I mean, if the pilots get their money, if they get their thirty percent, does that blow the whole wage system out?

PM: Yes.

MARTIN: Simple as that?

KEATING: Simple as that.

MARTIN: So you can't afford to lose?

PM: We can't afford to lose and we won't lose. I mean, what the pilots have got to understand is this. They are simply not going to win. If it means shutting down the system for X number of weeks, it will be shut down. These pilots have got to understand the fact that they're flying up there, you know, above the clouds, in the clouds, but they are not above and beyond ordinary wage and salary earners. You look at your audience, the people here, they're, themselves or their husbands. Look, a person who's a tradesperson, the training involved in becoming a qualified tradesperson is, in a sense, more difficult than becoming a pilot. I mean, I learnt to fly.

MARTIN: I heard you say that. Do you have a licence still?

PM: No. I flew with the Royal Airforce when I was at Oxford. And, look, learning to fly is not something extraordinarily difficult. As Chippy said, if you can't learn to fly in seven hours, you know, you're not Now the people who are out there ...

MARTIN: But that underestimates the responsibility though, Bob?

PM: Of course, but their responsibility hasn't increased by thirty percent overnight. I mean, bus drivers have got responsibility. There are more people, there's about, at the maximum, I mean, there's about six percent of the Australian population fly. But, all the time, people are, their lives, the majority of peoples lives are in the hands of a whole lot of other people who don't kid themselves about the glamour that pilots try and attach to themselves.

MARTIN: The six percent maybe right. But I found yesterday circling a tourist spot like Cairns, flying back yesterday, I read that tourism now has become our biggest export earner above wool. So it's more than six percent. It's affecting all those people who want to come to Australia to spend lots of money?

PM: You don't handle this, at least we don't, there might be some people, like the Opposition, who said well, let's have just free-bargaining, let them negotiate, if they can negotiate thirty percent, that's good. But we don't. I mean, we've got a system where the people here, the ordinary viewers, they have exercised great restraint and that's meant jobs and jobs and jobs. Now these people, look, let's see what their previous President said, just a short quote. Captain Fitzsimmons who was the previous President. He said, there is no other pilot group in the world that enjoys your overall pay structure. That's what he said about his own people. But they want to go for a hike of thirty percent so that ordinary people who are exercising their restraint, we won't.

MARTIN: Do you care if they de-register, if the fact that they go on the open market and can negotiate with companies?

KEATING: Once they lose their award structure, then they are on their own and they're on their own in a position where their companies know that such a pay claim will destroy their companies because it would flow into other areas of their employment and where they know the Government believes that will destroy the wages system.

MARTIN: While you've been in the air today, in fact, you were told on Don Chipp's radio program that the Pilots Association is saying today that they think management have deliberately inflamed this, in fact they want to destroy the system at the moment?

PM: It's nonsense. I mean, it just is not the case. What the management wants or the Government wants and what the public, I'm sure, wants is for pilots to understand that they are no different from anyone else. If the overwhelming proportion of Australian working men and women are prepared to operate within a system, exercise restraint and get benefits from it, then pilots aren't any different. If they want to go outside the system, which is what they're saying, okay, but let them understand, if they go outside the system, then they lose all their rights as well as their obligations and they will be hit.

MARTIN: Alright. The last question on that. Would you bring

in the RAAF pilots. Would you bring in freelance pilots at four o'clock this afternoon if the pilots decide they're not going to abide by the rules?

PM: We had, I had Ansett and Australian in about two and half hours yesterday with me. Just let me say this. We have contingency plans in respect of providing skeletal services, you'll never be able to replace the existing service. We'll do everything we can to provide emergency and other services for the Australian public and when the airline operators take action against these pilots, as they will with our full support, when they take that action against individual pilots and the Pilots Federation, they'll have our full support and they've got to understand, if they go outside the system which they're talking about, and I don't want them to, I plead with them, stay inside, let's be like everyone else. But if you go out, you haven't got the previous experience. That's what used to happen before and that's what's motivating. Whenever they went out before the Accord, either Ansett or TAA would give in - game, set and match. Different game this time, boys. You go out and it's war.

MARTIN: Alright. And the war again, just to emphasis that, Paul, as you say. There is no way in the world that you can afford, there's no way they can win this?

KEATING: No, well, I don't believe there is. And the cost of them winning it is that basically the discipline in the wage system deteriorates and that means, that has a substantial meaning for every person as a as I've said, for every person in the labour market. It means fewer jobs for Australians because it would mean those in employment might gain some temporary short-term pay advantage.

MARTIN: Alright, let me shift along. It's been called the Bob and Paul show on the road. Yesterday's Melbourne papers, Sydney papers, Brisbane. Is it the Bob and Paul show? Why have you decided to go on the road?

PM: Well, you've asked us to.

MARTIN: Look at that photograph. That was the Age yesterday on the front page?

PM: Couple of mates there, that's what it is. We were on the road this week because this fellow brought down his seventh Budget on Tuesday. As usual, a very, very good Budget and very well received and we made the decision, before he brought down the Budget, that in this period after the Budget we were going to be out selling it. That's what we do every year.

KEATING: We do every year though. Every year we do the same, I do the same.

MARTIN: In fact, you've
We've asked you a lot before?

KEATING: We've been on individually before. But I'm doing a lunch after your program, Ray, which is, I think, my seventh appearance at. You know, it's a routine thing I do. It's the Institute of Directors, it's on after each Budget and then I do the other capital cities. So we do this and Bob does the same.

MARTIN: Let me clear up then what I've read in the papers all weekend. The report, using the Aussie vernacular, that Bob Hawke welched on an agreement that you two had about Bob stepping down from the prime ministership in this term. Was there such an agreement? Did he welch?

KEATING: No. And the fact of the matter is, well I mean, I think that the picture you just had on demonstrates the point. I mean, we're becoming, you know, I think a long-term team. I mean, in these jobs it's very hard, well particularly in the job - Prime Minister.

MARTIN: It's got to be long-term because the PM has already said he's going to be around for five or six?

PM: I'm not going to be around for ever.

MARTIN: But five or six years. I mean, last year when I spoke, a year ago I spoke to you for A Current Affair and you said ...?

PM: Don't exaggerate. What I've said is that I will lead this Government into this coming election, when it comes, and I would think another one after and then, you know, it's time to look about standing down.

MARTIN: That's certainly four years we're talking about?

PM: Yeah, four, yes, that sort of order. But what I've said also is that I and this Government and may I say this country is terribly fortunate that sitting next to me we've got a bloke who is superbly equipped to follow me.

MARTIN: Are you prepared to sit as Treasurer for four more years?

KEATING: Well I think the thing that matters most to Bob and to me is that this is a once and for all opportunity for

Australia to restructure itself before the turn of the century, to re-equip and re-direct itself to begin the next century. And that's been, I think, more important to both of us than our own particular interests, personal interests, and in the doing of it, you know, we're well and truly advanced along the way through it. I think we'd like to see it come to fruition.

MARTIN: What's happened, Paul, have you become more patient in this. I mean, you weren't saying this a year ago?

KEATING: Oh, yes, I was. But the answer is I am becoming more patient too. I mean, as you get older, you get a bit more patient.

MARTIN: You also say it's a thankless job being Treasurer. Are you prepared to be Treasurer for four more years?

KEATING: Yes, I think so. I mean, if ...

MARTIN: Doesn't sound very convincing?

KEATING: Well, as I say, if the public will have us, we'll have them. You know, that's the long and short of it. No, I think that, well this is an interesting job because the way in which this Cabinet operates. Both the Prime Minister and the Treasurer and a number of other Ministers in our key expenditure group really dabble in all areas of policy. So it's not just the Treasury, it's not just the limited experience of the Treasury. So it's a very interesting period in Australian life and, you know, one couldn't be doing anything more socially useful.

MARTIN: Can we clear up. Is there an accord between the two of you about when you are going to go?

PM: An accord.

MARTIN: Yes. Is there an understanding between the two of you about when you are going to go?

PM: We don't have an accord. I mean, we obviously talk about these things and what I've indicated publicly is in line with the sorts of things I've said to Paul. And, I mean, I think there's a bit too much of a tendency to personalise these things. I mean, we're honest people. We had a bit of a spat last year, we didn't deny that, we had a bit of a spat. But the fundamental nature of our relationship is such that was quickly fixed up. And Paul puts it right, I mean, as human beings and politicians, of course we have our own personalities, our ambitions and so on. But the basic thing

about Keating and Hawke is that they want to see the production of a more economically prosperous and a more socially just Australia. And our joint conviction is that together, at this stage, we're the capable of doing that.

MARTIN: Alright. Can I just ask you then, I mean, categorically, Bob, whenever the next election is, whether it's November or May, whenever it is, that when Australian voters go to vote for the Labor Party, they will be voting for Bob Hawke as Prime Minister for three years, categorically?

PM: The term of that Parliament, yes.

MARTIN: No equivocation?

PM: No equivocation.

MARTIN: Alright, fine. Thank you. Stay with us for a moment.

- RM: Has life become more boring?
- PM: How could life be boring as Prime Minister of the best country in the world. No way.
- RM: But you don't look like you're having as much fun as you did back in those days in general.
- PM: Different sort of fun, I'll tell you what I wouldn't ... if its a question of drinking grog by a pool and being Prime Minister of Australia there's no bet.
- RM: What about the image-makers, I mean so often we hear now the power of television for politicians and politics, the fact that you take more care of your hair these days than we certainly saw in those days.
- PM: Still got some to take care of fortunately.
- RM: The suits colour coordinated and all these sorts of things. Also are you conscience of the image-makers, do you ever have to say to your minders - back-off and just leave me alone?
- PM: Yes, occasionally. Sure.
- RM: What are they trying to make of you?
- PM: They've got a responsibility, I mean, if you're Prime Minister of Australia you just can't be Bob Hawke, the President of the ACTU. I mean, either you're dinkum about your country in leading or you're not. And so they have a responsibility. But I also have the right occasionally to say - well I'll do it my way - when I think my judgements better than theirs, that's the way it is.
- RM: And you do that quite often?
- PM: Well yes, reasonably so.
- RM: Paul what about you, on the suggestion of the reports that you've been told to cut down on your swearing, cut down on some of the language you use in Parliament.
- PM: You ought to hear him in Cabinet.
- T: There is a lot of myth about that Ray, a lot of myth about that I might say. But it sort of makes it a colour piece to the I mean when the Canberra journos get to their Friday pieces they need a bit of colour in their to sort of mix it up. So they make more of it than it really is.

RM: But is that a fact of life, the fact that if you are saying scumbag, if you are saying some of the things that are said in Parliament ...

T: I've said that once in 20 years but I've never heard the end of it you know.

RM: Is that right. There's been a few other lines thrown in their as well but is that ... do you have to be far more conscious of it than let's say than Menzies or Arthur Callwell would have had to be 20 years ago before television (inaudible).

T: Well it was a much tougher Parliament in those days than it is today. I mean even when I first went their 20 years ago it was a very hard place. It is quite a polite chamber these days. I mean sure you'll get a fair bit of noise and you get interjections and you'll get all that points of order and all that sort of stuff but in terms of the sheer sort of personal invective, I don't think the place is a patch on what it was you know.

RM: But there is so many pollsters, there is so many image-makers now, I mean, like as Bob Hawke just said a moment ago, do you have to throw them off and say just get away and let me be myself are the people trying to say look if you want to be a future PM this is what you've got to do?

T: I don't think we are very affected or conected. I mean we are pretty well as - what you see is what you get.

RM: But will you go and review this as Laurie Oakes says in the Bulletin. Do you look at yourself on television afterwards?

PM: Not always, I mean, but I always take the view whether its about how you perform on television whatever you do, if you've got the view that you can never do something better than you've done it before, that you can't learn from what you've done, then you're a mug. I've always believed in life that I can do something better than I've done it before.

RM: So you go back and check and see how you performed?

PM: It is quite strange in television, you would know, you could quite unconsciously develop a new quirk, you're not aware of it and it might be distracting to people. So if you see, well I'm doing that a bit too much, then you're damn stupid not to learn from that.

RM: But do you protect each other as has been reported?

T: No. Not really. No.

PM: No. No.

- RM: There was a "not really" there. I wasn't sure.
- T: No. Because I mean, a lot of the time I would see a very small component of any television I do see again. I think this will be true of Bob as well.
- PM: Absolutely.
- T: You don't get a chance to watch stuff. I mean, once it is gone, its gone.
- RM: It is not true that you two are now conscience of John Hewson and Andrew Peacock being far better television performers than their predecessors and as a result you've got yourselves down to these suits or light suits that you smarten up your act?
- PM: No, its nonsense.
- T: No. We're our usual
- RM: Bob you say its nonsense but I keep reading that and people out here keep reading that.
- PM: Yes well, look, if you believed everything you read.
- RM: Not everything, are they all wrong then?
- PM: They are wrong, I mean, I have not spent one second thinking about how I should perform differently because of Peacock and not Howard, Blunt not Sinclair although I don't know how long that's going to last, there is a challenge going on there and its a merry-go-round. So if you start worrying about their merry-go-round you'd go mad.
- RM: What about the image by the cartoonists then, that the undertaker image that you have Paul. Does that offend you, does that upset you?
- T: Not really. You pick up one of these sort of handles one way or another.
- RM: But this sort of Zanetti cartoon is that....?
- T: I know, but he's the one who does these most of the time, Zanetti.
- RM: Do you ever ask for an original?
- T: Sometimes, occasionally I have.
- RM: What about the ad then. In fact we've got the ad from the Bulletin and its been in the Time magazine and others around Australia, this one here? Does that offend you when you see it?

- T: Not really. No. Its not too flattering. It looks like I've sort of had a hard days night. I mean, if we'd had had the fun we wouldn't mind the image. The problem is you don't get too many nights like that.
- RM: Well Bob do you think as you said a year ago, do you think that Paul Keating should get out into more shopping malls, more supermarkets?
- PM: I think to the extent that Paul's got the opportunity of broadening the range of experience. I think its a good thing. I mean as Treasurer he's got an enormous responsibility of helping prepare policy and then talking to sectors of the Australian community that are decision makers and so on. And for instance after this he's going to talk to about 400 Institute of Directors. I need to get the message across. But there is a lot of that to the extent that he's got the time like it would be a good thing doing this thing. But just let me say this about Keating and his image, it is very important this be said, people have tried to create this picture of Keating and his.....
- RM: He's a bit wary I think Bob.
- PM: Its alright. I don't think he'll worry too much. Of the hard austere top end of town man. Now I can say this, I've sat there chairing a Cabinet in ERC for 6 1/2 years and there is no person in that Cabinet who is more committed to the interests of the ordinary Australian, in particular looking after those who legitimately need looking after than this bloke. I mean he's a traditionalist in that way and its a pity I think and its a pity that that fact gets lost in the other fact that he is at home with the top end of town with the movers and shakers .. he's got to be, he's got to have a rapport with them and be able to talk to them. He can do that better than any Treasurer in this country but never forget the other fact.
- RM: But you, Bob, I mean you've been there, you've been with workers. They're sitting at home now watching - the shift workers - they're saying oh come on Bob give us a break.
- PM: Well lets make the point about the workers. Your word who are sitting at home, there is 1 1/2 million more of those sitting at home or going to be sitting at home at the end of their work than there were when we came to office. Four times more work being created under us than before.
- RM: But my point about your suggestion last year, that he should go out amongst supermarkets is that he doesn't relate to ordinary people. Ordinary people don't see him the way they see you. They see you at football games and other games and other things. And they don't see Paul Keating there.

- PM: OK. But look you don't want everyone in the image of Bob Hawke, you don't want everyone in the image of Paul Keating.
- T: I also get around a bit. I went to the grand final with Bob last year in NSW.
- RM: Who's going to win this year Paul?
- T: I'm not sure mate. I think my team
- RM: Do you know who is in the final five?
- PM: South Sydney mate.
- T: Canterbury is not going to make it - I'm a Canterbury man.
- RM: But that is my point - do you know who is in the top five at the moment in the VFL?
- T: No I don't.
- RM: I bet you do?
- PM: Yeh. I mean I come from Victoria.
- RM: But I'm talking about Sydney, he comes from Sydney.
- T: I know but the other thing is Ray. I do get around a lot. I see a lot of people, I go to a lot of ordinary situations, I mean, I wander around. For instance if I'm in Sydney, I wander through shops I wander through the street, people come up and talk to you. And the other thing is, I started work when I was 15 years of age in the Sydney County Council in Sydney. I was down those sub stations under the ground at half past seven in the morning with the cockroaches running up your legs.
- RM: A few years ago.
- T: Yeh I know. But I stayed with that group of people until really I came to Canberra. I mean I lived in my electorate for 40 years from when I was born.
- RM: The point's still ... you've got to, this is a hard act to follow. If you're going to be Prime Minister. Here's a bloke who is seen as a folk hero at the risk of embarrassing him. Here's a bloke who actually goes to the football and races - you don't. You're the completely opposite.
- T: No but I keep an eye on those interests as well, but I have another set of interests which I think are also interesting for Australians, you know. I mean I am interested in art and music and other things, so is Bob by the way, and you know

- RM: It is often we get the image of you referring to Australians as trolley pushers and Hills Hoist mob and so on almost with disdain.
- PM: You've used that phrase once.
- RM: What was it about?
- T: It was about saying it might be better for somebody living in the far western suburbs of Sydney and Melbourne, who are living as you often see, people particularly women home in isolated situations with not much facility, no density around them, no shopping centre. And I was simply making the point we ought to be thinking about the way Australians live that there is a better way to live. That simply putting people out, further and further out away from all the facilities. I should have thought a pretty legitimate point you know and one. It is very easy for all the people doing well who are in the inner city or on the waterfronts or anything else. But for the people who are not, who are just pushed out there in those subdivisions, that don't have the kind of
- RM: We are talking about fact. I mean you can frown about what my question is on to now, but I'm talking about perception. The perception out there is - this is the sort of man who is going to follow you.
- PM: Look, life, whether it is political life or other life - life is made up of facts and perception and I would suggest that in the end, the facts are the most important thing. And I've said what the fact is about Keating. The fact is that
- RM: Politically they might not be Bob, perceptions can be more important. -
- PM: But in the end if Keating was in fact contemptuous of ordinary people. If Keating was only concerned with the topic that would be the most important thing. That fact.
- RM: Sentimental to the last tear drop. When was the last time you've cried?
- T: Its a while since I've cried. But I'm sentimental, you know, I think one either is or isn't, and I am. But the point Bob makes about....
- RM: But what would make you cry? What makes you cry.
- T: Oh, some human tragedies....
- RM: Your family?

- T: The family is always the thing that makes you cry.
- RM: But would you cry over Chinese dying in Tiernament Square?
- T: No. I didn't cry over it but I was very sad about it. Very sad.
- RM: Why did you cry?
- PM: Well look, lets face up to this, I would be ...
- RM: I'm not putting you down.
- PM: No. I know you're not. But let's face right up to it. I would be very much more comfortable publicly if on occasion I didn't cry in public. I would be much more comfortable. I get no pleasure out of it. I don't try and do it. It is a physiological fact of my life that that happens. It has happened over a long period of time. Its more obvious now when I'm in the public eye. If I could do something to stop it I would because it would be more comfortable. Because it becomes somewhat disconcerting topic of conversation. But that is the way I am. And if I've got to take Bob Hawke, warts and all, well if have to and it doesn't sound too modest, I'll put up with what I've got thanks. Including the problems.
- T: But again Ray, Bob's point is right. The sentimentality is one thing but when you talk about support for families which we've done with the family allowance in the last couple of years which is enormous. Support for pensioner renters, support for pensioners generally, support for single mums with kids. It takes the sentimentality to the next year's full step. That is to help them and that is what the Government's about.
- RM: Do you think they know what you're going on about Paul. Do they recognise that?
- T: Oh I think so. I think many people know. I get lots of nice letters from women and from families.
- RM: I was going to ask you about that.
- T: A lot of them.
- RM: Can I ask you back on the front page again today Mr Hawke is one of your senior numbers men, numbers cruncher Robert Ray talking about an election maybe November, I thought last week you were talking about May or March?
- PM: Yes I was talking about next year. I'm the one who makes the decision not Robert.

- RM: But can't you get your act together, can't you get your Cabinet ministers, why aren't they, can't you say 'hang on' its not on.
- PM: Getting your act together, now look mate, if you're talking about getting your act together you're on the wrong side of politics, have a look at the other mob.
- RM: I mean Robert Ray is one of the great numbers crunchers.
- PM: Robert Ray is saying that his judgement, it could be in-opportune to have one then and that's a fair comment, it could be, it won't be though.
- RM: It could be, I mean you're mudding the water again, in this year, definitely not this year?
- PM: Oh it won't be this year.
- RM: It won't be this year, alright.
- PM: Yeh, it won't be this year.
- RM: OK, alright. What about a debate with Andrew Peacock when you
- PM: I've already said if he's the leader then, which is becoming increasingly unlikely, increasingly unlikely.
- RM: You think he could be gone do you?
- PM: Oh yeh, could be gone.
- RM: Who will take over?
- PM: Well that's a good question. Who do you reckon Paul?
- T: Well some of them have got McLachlan in mind, that is why they're trying to move him out
- PM: There is a God.
- T: But some others might try and move Chaney down, so there'd be a God on both counts.
- RM: So you don't mind whether it's Fred Chaney or Ian McLachlan.
- T: We take on all comers, we knock over whoever is in front of us, that's our policy. Just bring them on one after the other.
- RM: It's got nothing to do with arrogance at all?

- T: No, no because they're saying they can run the show better than us, we say just bring you're people on one at a time, one at a time.
- PM: But seriously.....
- RM: Can I be serious about Peacock then, does it stick in your craw the fact that people say he beat you in debate last time:
- PM: No it doesn't. I've just made the observation if Andrew and the Libs want to make judgements about 1990, in terms of 1984, and the condition of Bob Hawke in 1984, no-one will be happier than Bob Hawke because 1990 will not be 1984.
- RM: But why can't you say with that confidence then, why can't you say yes I'll take him on.
- PM: I've already indicated that...
- RM: But you'll do it.
- PM: I've already indicated I'm quite happy whoever it is, and I wasn't just being mischievous I might say before, Paul and I can be mischievous at times.
- RM: I find it hard to believe.
- PM: I wouldn't put too serious odds on Andrew leading them into the next election.
- RM: So if it is Fred Chaney or Ian McLachlan you're quite happy to debate them as well?
- PM: Yeh, sure.
- RM: Paul, he's called you, Bob's called you the world's greatest Treasurer.
- T: I got that handle a few years ago, unfortunately from a European magazine, I would have been much better without it, much, much better without it.
- RM: Would you call him the world's; greatest Prime Minister?:
- T: I think it's for anyone leading a social democratic party likes ours that that is a party of economic competence with compassion, I think that is a handle I could very graciously give him, absolutely.
- RM: Could you live with that?

- PM: Yes.
- RM: Now listen you've mentioned earlier about letters you get, why, according to your press secretary a few months back, why are you so popular with young women of Australia.
- T: I get a lot of letters from young people generally, from young people generally, for some reason I do well with them, but I also do well with all the people I've helped with the programs I've mentioned before - the family allowance supplement and....
- PM: Isn't it about time we got on to an area of a different argument, I mean it's been sweetness and light, which is a reflection of a reality, but he's been getting a bit cheeky lately, I mean he's being trying to push some line, that the research shows that he's the greatest sex appeal, where did you get that from?
- T: There's just a little hint in the Cameron research that maybe he was not quite sitting on the perch alone in this respect you see.
- RM: Which research was this, Paul.
- T: The Cameron research, ANOP's research, there was just some, some element of rivalry in these stakes.
- RM: What do you think that you've got that Bob Hawke doesn't have?
- T: I don't know, it's all in the eyes of the beholder.
- RM: Well, have you got those (inaudible), to try and improve your act a little, because we noted that interview in Canberra that you gave Paul, and we've got this one for you, which has come courtesy of the secret garden, you might open that to improve your standing, and just so you don't feel out of it Bob, you won't be embarrassed by it, let me assure you, a couple of things here we think you need.
- PM: What you got there mate?
- RM: A pair of silk pyjamas for you.
- T: Well that'll beat the stripped cotton won't it.
- RM: Anita will be pleased, we got them for you today.
- T: They're definitely a step up.
- PM: You will look reasonably sexy in those son.

- T: I suppose I can't parade in them, but I'm sure if I could, I could probably do better in the Cameron research for the next quarter.
- RM: What you'd outdo the boss?
- T: Well, I'd give him a bit more of a nudge.
- RM: Can I just ask you with this sort of image, we thought of Anita as well, we thought of your wife and children of you parading around in the other old PJ's, that we thought were pretty boring, we gave you this one, but if you move up to this job, that you aspire to, can you live with the sort of public pressure that Bob Hawke and Hazel Hawke and the family have to have in terms of the focus on you and your four children.
- T: I suppose, it's a case of have to, if that were to be the case, but it is hard on families I think.
- RM: You speak of your son being beaten up in the schoolyard because his old man is the Treasurer.
- T: All that sort of thing happens, and you know, I mean, Bob attested to that often, you can only do these jobs with the minimum of distraction for your family, the best you can, but it depends on the environment.
- RM: Would you warn a man, Bob, after your experience that unless you can take that pressure, unless you can take the probe of the cameras and your personal life to get out of it.
- PM: Yes, of course, but that is the inevitable, unavoidable part of, but I've watched Paul in action and let me say this there really is not just in my Cabinet, but I don't think there is anyone in Parliament who, given the pressures that they have has been able to manage the closeness to his family, that this bloke has. I mean he shifted to Canberra and gets as much time as he can with them. Can I just tell a very human story about him, he won't mind if I do, I'm still going to tell it. You know we were preparing the Budget. We were there till all hours of the night, and he came in the next morning. He was looking a bit whacko, even more than I thought. He got home and when he got home Anita had had a new thing there for vacuuming the carpet. So here's the Treasurer of Australia after sitting in ERC, had spent about 2 1/2 hours, this is going through to the you know, getting about 2 or 3 hours sleep, this is in the middle of it.

- T: No what happened Ray, that one of the kids was sick on the carpet. Anita said well look you know you can never quite successfully do with that, I'll get one of these machines - you see - to clean it. So I got the machine, so I did the halls and she said well look you better do where the kids put their feet in the TV room, so I said move the thing and I'll do the damn lot. The next the halls, so I did everything in the house and finished at two in the morning.
- RM: So you just run the country today and now you run the house.
- PM: I'd say it's Anita running it to some extent.
- T: The guy in the Cabinet room said, 'well if you offer a cheap rate, you can do my place'.
- RM: Alright, thank you both for talking to us, we appreciate it very much indeed.