



PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF DOORSTOP, JOHN CURTIN HOUSE, 8 DECEMBER
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E & O E - PROOF ONLY

JOURNALIST: Is there a need of better quality candidates not only in New South Wales, but federally?

PM: Well, I think that all parties always ought to strive for the best quality candidates they can get. I think that the Labor Party in a strange, mysterious, unco-ordinated way over the years has thrown up some very, very good members on that. I was particularly fortunate when I became Prime Minister to have a Ministry there available with tremendous talent, but I think you can always do better and I think that's true of all parties.

JOURNALIST: Is it a matter for the National Executive though or for the New South Wales Branch do you think?

PM: Well, I'm not going to get into that discussion here. That's a matter for discussion within the Party and I'm running late.

JOURNALIST: Are you pleased with the success of yesterday's meeting between the environmental groups and the industry?

PM: Yes, it was good. The spirit was good, I mean, it would be silly to deny that there weren't, you know, different positions. I mean, obviously there are, but there was a willingness to attempt to work together to get some common acceptance of what we mean by sustainable development and we will now, as they've agreed, prepare a discussion paper which will be circulated and that will be the beginning. I hope, then of a series of working groups in various sectors of Australian industry. I hope that in this way, as we go into 1990 and towards the end of it, we will be able to get a basis on which we can agreeably achieve the twin goals of development and also discharging our responsibility for the protection of the environment. As I've said, they are not to be seen as either/ors. We've got to, as a community, if we are going to discharge our obligations, have both economic development and we must discharge our responsibility to the future generations.

JOURNALIST: Mr Peacock has said that voters will
all aspects of your Government as wanting.

PM: Well, I would think if I were Mr Peacock at the
moment, at the end of the year, when all the
analyses are that he has failed utterly in his coup to
provide the Liberal Party with appropriate leadership.
If I were Andrew I'd say, mate, just spend the Christmas
holidays examining yourself.

JOURNALIST: Should the Liberals have stuck with John
Howard?

PM: who's to know?

JOURNALIST: Happy Birthday, Mr Hawke.

PM: Thank you very much indeed.

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