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PRIME MINISTER

104/95

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON PJ KEATING MP

DEBT TRICK

Mr Howard's launch today of his so called Debt Truck makes it clear that there will be no room for truth in the Coalition's election strategy.

It is outright dishonesty for Mr Howard to praise the Australian investment environment in the morning and then undermine it in the afternoon with a cheap and misleading stunt.

This morning Mr Howard said that *"any potential overseas investor couldn't do other than look upon Australia as a place where continuing long-term foreign investment remains extremely attractive."*

To then continue with his cynical Chicken Little scare campaign shows that Mr Howard stands for nothing and will try any trick to slip into office.

Today's stunt is part of Mr Howard's broader scheme to deceive the Australian people into believing that foreign debt is owed personally by them.

Mr Howard may deny this, but his endorsement of Senator Winston Crane's campaign of lies in sending fake foreign debt invoices to his constituents is proof of his complicity.

Despite knowing full well that the bulk of foreign debt is owed by private companies he is prepared to back Senator Crane's deceit.

Mr Howard last month made a distinction between "telling the truth" and "campaign hyperbole" - today's dishonesty from the Opposition Leader illustrates his point.

CANBERRA
20 September 1995