

NO. 5 TV RECORDING:

"TALK TO THE NATION"
BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE RT. HON. R.G. MENZIES
6TH DECEMBER, 1961

Ladies and gentlemen,

This, you may be glad to know is my last appearance on Television in this election campaign, and it's a very brief one - five minutes I think. Therefore all I need do, all I can do, is to give you a very quick summary of what I believe to be the issue in this election.

Now I've been all around Australia - I must say I have had some of the best meetings I have ever had in my life - and I've been delighted to find wherever I go that people are not only conscious of the development of this country in recent years, but they are very proud of it and they are looking forward to the next period of development because they know that this means everything to them; not only in terms of national strength, but in terms of individual advancement, rising living standards, high and rising employment.

Now what has been done in these recent years has been done by what I will describe as a system of co-operation, Commonwealth Government, State Governments, private enterprise - hardly any of these big things that are going on in Australia fail to reflect that particular friendly co-operative association. And of course we have been aided in all this by the fact that into Australia there has come a vast amount of capital, a vast amount of skill, and a great number of people. And all these things have worked together, in an atmosphere of good credit, and good repute, and stable government, to produce the results that we have seen and to produce those even greater results that will be seen in the years to come.

Now on the other hand we have our opponents, the Socialists of the Labour Party, who offer you very little in terms of development. They haven't had so much to say about it, but they offer you handouts, very attractive offers, on the good old socialist principle. But where they stand on the matters that are essential to development is another question.

They appear to object to investment here from overseas. All they have to do is to cut it off, like that, and the result will be seen before very long in a slowing down of the national progress. Where do they stand on industrial peace? Because the high level of industrial peace has meant a great deal in these recent years to national progress, and one of the elements in it has been, for example, the democratic control of the trades unions by the secret ballot. So far as I can make out Labour is pledged to repeal the Secret Ballot legislation. I certainly know that when it was before Parliament they voted, to a man, against it. Where do they stand on these other matters?

I've said something about overseas investment, something about secret ballots, but what happens under their inflationary system of finance? Rising costs, great damage to the export industries, consequently a considerable loss of national income, consequently a considerable tendency for the real standard of living to fall, and, as these things go on, a considerable building up of unemployment on the large scale. Not a moderate amount of unemployment, temporary, and in a volume that will undoubtedly disappear in the course of next year, not that; but massive unemployment as a result of loose expansionary finance and rising costs.

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Now that is as much as I can say in this time - it by no means covers the ground. But it's your choice and I don't mind telling you that, not so much for my sake, as an individual, but for the sake of this country, I hope you will choose to go on with sound government and sound national advancement.
