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SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER - MR. HAROLD HOLT

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Ministerial and Parliamentary Colleagues, Ladies - I understand there are some brave ladies with us here tonight - and Gentlemen;

I don't know what the scene appears to you in the background there but I can assure you that this is about as impressive a gathering that any public leader in this country could ever hope to address and I confess to being singularly impressed from the outset. I am sure that our two distinguished visitors from the United Kingdom, Sir Paul Chambers and Sir Richard Powell, both of whom I have had the pleasure of meeting at gatherings of the Institute in London, also feel stirred as I am by this spectacle of what Australia is able to contribute in the way of distinguished directorial talent. But I gather there are something over 600 directors here tonight and, looking around the room, I think there must be at least 500 who are personal friends of mine from my many years in public life - at least I like to think they are personal friends of mine, and certainly they have exhibited the greatest of goodwill to me this evening, and for the most part, the greatest of goodwill through the long period of apprenticeship I have served. After all, it says something for the characteristic Australian quality of tolerance and mateship that after seven years at the Treasury I can still face you, looking to you as friends and receiving such a respectful and attentive hearing as I am, at least up to this point.

Gentlemen, we are getting used gradually to the idea in Canberra that there has been a change of management. Every now and then my officers and I refer to my distinguished predecessor and say, "Well, the PM is doing so-and-so" or "the PM is doing this or that". I do it. My officers do it. After sixteen years' association with a great political leader, it is not easy to adjust one's thinking to the fact that he is not there to carry these great responsibilities that face us at this time. But in a tremendously busy month, we have been rapidly accustoming ourselves to the fact that we have to stand on our own feet now and exhibit to the Australian people that Australia is able to produce leaders, and as one great leader moves on, then we hope that the team that I have assembled around me will enable me to continue to give Australia the sound, progressive, imaginative government that we have been favoured to enjoy for so many years under the Prime Ministership of Sir Robert Menzies.

No Australian Prime Minister could take office at a more fascinating or interesting time in the history of his country. I am sure that even those of you in this room who have had to accustom yourselves to the rapidity of change in the years of phenomenal growth we've known since the end of the Second World War will have been struck by the rapidity of these changes around us, not only in the domestic scene but more particularly in the international scene in our own immediate neighbourhood over the period through which we are now passing. To us in Canberra, they are occurring with almost dizzying rapidity. Where once in my own political lifetime, Australia was an isolated outpost down under, now we are invaded in hordes almost with people who have discovered Australia perhaps for the first time but who are learning that here is not only a country of tremendous resources and great potential, but here is one of the significant landmarks in this area of the

world capable of exercising a significant influence upon the destiny of this area of the world. Now that may be rather a large mouthful to claim, but even in my own short term as Prime Minister I have been conscious of the fact that great national leaders in the United Kingdom and the United States are anxious to hear what the Government of this country feels about the particular developments in which we have some special knowledge in this area of the world. And not only anxious to hear but giving respectful weight to the views that we put to them, and this, of course, imposes a tremendous responsibility upon us, not only a responsibility for careful and considered thought and judgment but the sort of responsibility which has us weigh where we come out in all of these situations. And at times, although it is rather flattering to be treated on a basis of equality, one wonders whether the larger countries with which we enter upon discussions still realise that we are less than 12 million people trying to build a great continent when they, in their turn, are countries of great population and with many decades of national development behind them.

We in Australia have been jolted by events to adulthood in circumstances of such complexity as to call for a maturity and understanding perhaps as has not been expected of us in earlier periods of our history. So the formation of this body of which you are a part, each and every one of you, is not only important in the national sense, but in my view could hardly be more timely because Australia will have to form a judgment, nationally, upon many matters going well beyond our shores, matters which will involve us in some exercise of responsibility, some provision of military assistance, some provision of international aid or guidance, technical capacity and equipment, a whole host of matters which would have been foreign to earlier governments in Australian history.

It is true we have been doing something along these lines over recent years. It is quite obviously the fact that more will be demanded of us, expected of us, and indeed needed from us as the years go on. Now it struck me so many times during my own long period in public life as rather strange that we hadn't developed amongst the leaders in commerce and trade and industry a greater willingness on their part - or might I say your part - to participate in the national dialogue on these great questions of policy which arise from time to time. I am not suggesting or hinting that you should involve yourselves in the day by day material of party politics; perhaps that can be left to those of us who are in the political scene as your Parliamentary representative. But I don't think we can afford to go on indefinitely without views being put quite vigorously and frankly and clearly, not necessarily in an organised sense or by the organisation represented here tonight, but by individual public leaders in their own field, and by public I mean men who have achieved stature in the eyes of the public in the fields of industry and trade and commerce.

There is a great need in Australia, a gap in our structure from this absence of participation in the national dialogue. It has been increasing, of course, to some degree over recent years, but time and time again as we have sat around the Cabinet table in Canberra and sought to appoint some person to a particular public post, one which calls for a man with an industrial or commercial background, but also which calls for qualities which go beyond the tasks of his own particular organisation or section of industry. And I assure you, you would be rather shocked to know how narrow the field of selection proves to be when we come to this task, and it perhaps explains why you find familiar figures bobbing up in a number of tasks of government.

We feel almost embarrassed when we go back to the same familiar figures and ask them to do a job for us, and if we do that it is not because we want to load unnecessary burdens on their back but because there hasn't been this general participation in affairs going beyond the immediate preoccupation of the executive or the director in particular industries and sections of the economy which would provide us with the recruits we need for

public service - sometimes honorary - sometimes of a more permanent character, but contributing to what has been as Sir Robert Webster recognised in his notable address the other evening, a considerable and significant increase in the participation by government in the affairs of industry. Not participation, I would hope, in the sense that we are going to intrude more deeply than has been the case in the past; but participation in the sense that there is a growing need - it has been there for a long time, and we have done something about it - but a growing need in the times in which we find ourselves for teamwork between government and management so essential if the country is to progress as we would all wish as a great co-operating democracy.

And so, gentlemen, here is a task for the Institute of Directors, and it is heartening to us all to feel the need for a more co-operative Australia, an Australia that has developed a close national unity, to see evidenced by your presence here tonight the signs that in the field of top director-ship and executive strength in this country, we will find a greater co-ordination of ideas and activity than we have in the past. This will be a tremendous national asset for Australia.

Now we, as a Government, have encountered, or at least are the inheritors of a combination of important developments which are producing challenging situations for us in a number of directions. I mention first, however, the general picture because I want to come to some of these developments in a moment, but as one looks at the Australian scene generally, the task doesn't look as formidable in the internal domestic sense, the economic sense, Mr. President, as perhaps you have pictured it here tonight. That may be the viewpoint of an optimist but I think it is one in which my colleagues of the Cabinet would agree. That doesn't mean that there won't be problems in the future, of course. Anybody living in a country so subject to the hazards of the seasons, the fluctuation in output year by year, as the result of either drought, flood or some other adverse factor, the quite sensational fluctuations which occur from time to time in what we receive overseas for our products, when you are faced with that set of circumstances, no-one can claim that the course ahead is ever likely to be easy. But for those of us that have to sit and evolve continuing policies of a national kind, it doesn't look so formidable as it did in earlier periods in the last twenty years because we have had the good fortune in this country to come through a long period of stable political growth and policy formation with no interruption and with a continuing stability of conditions here. Not many countries around the world could point to that kind of stability whilst they were forming policies of an enduring kind. And I believe that over these years we've established a pattern and a structure for the Australia of the future which will endure for very many years to come, a basic pattern and structure of policy and national endeavour.

Now let me just illustrate it in a few directions. We have launched and sustained a vigorous programme of migration which we have every intention of continuing on as large a scale as we can contrive. Secondly, for most of the period I speak of, Australia has enjoyed what would be described in realistic terms as a full employment situation. Now although there have been here some minor fluctuations, no-one with any recollection of the pre-war Australia or of the more dreadful days of the 1930's could describe what has happened over the last twenty years as other than a full employment situation for the country and that situation continues. There will be odd pockets of weakness here and there which we shall have to attend to, but by and large the achievement has been recorded through years of considerable fluctuation, some of them years of stress, and we have been able to sustain, broadly speaking, a full employment situation.

Then we have had a high capital formation in this country. I wonder if everyone here realises just how high this has been. I was interested myself to discover recently that there is only one country recorded in the official international statistics that can point to a higher level of capital formation, or percentage

of capital formation than Australia, and that is Japan. Ours stands at about 27% of gross national expenditure. That compares with 17% or 18% for the United Kingdom and the United States, and this, too, is not a passing phase. It is attributable, of course, to our own internal capacity to save which is a high one by comparative standards around the world and also to the strong capital inflow which has been sustained even over these recent periods when official policies would appear to have produced some reduction of it. And I mention another factor - stable government - something we tend to take for granted in this country, and we are lucky people to be able to do so. We have had enough recent examples around the world to illustrate for us that these things are not either inevitable nor favouring the great mass of the world's population at the present time, and only tonight a flash has been received to the effect that in Ghana the army has taken over the government there and apparently deposed the administration of President Nkrumah. Well, this happening so recently against the events in Nigeria, which was regarded as about the most stable of non-European states in Africa, is another illustration of the restless and violent world in which we stand as an island of stability and security. And this, of course, is the factor which one finds cropping up repeatedly in the talks I have with those who come here looking Australia over and going away from this country more convinced than they had ever been before that this is a country in which they should have some stake for the future, joining with us in the building of a great nation, a stabilising, strengthening and prospering factor in this significant area of the world.

But I have mentioned the elements which are illustrative of what I speak of as the established structure and pattern for the Australia of the future. I don't believe that even if there were a change of government, despite the fact that I know there is and I am not wanting to turn this into a political occasion despite the fact that there is a profession of democratic socialism on the part of Mr. Calwell, a radical and socialist party on the part of Mr. Whitlam; my own belief is that these patterns that I mention are now so solidly established in Australia that even if a Labor Government came into office, it would soon find that the electorate would reject it if it sought in any way to alter what had become established national policies, serving Australia well.

So I say, ladies and gentlemen, that I don't expect any fundamental or drastic policy changes even from our political opponents; whatever their wishes might be in this direction, I am sure the weight of electoral opinion would be against it, and I don't see the need for them on the part of our own government, in order to deal with the domestic situation as we view it. There will be some marginal action required in perhaps a variety of directions, but any one in this room who is trying to plan for the future of their own organisation in Australia can, I believe, rely upon those fundamentals. Migration will continue, industrial growth will continue, the full employment situation will be a steady and continuous one in this country, and there will be a continuing stability of political affairs in Australia as a basis of our own national growth.

Now I believe this to be true and I am sure this is the view taken of it by those who come from overseas to observe our scene and they claim something else which I was going to mention in another connection a little later, but perhaps it is apposite to introduce it here, and this is something we don't talk about ourselves. Again, we take it for granted. But they include in their category of the assets they discover, the character and quality of the Australian people. There may be less than 12 million of us but in the eyes of those who come to observe us, we are people of character and quality. And how essential this is if we are less than 12 million people; with a continent of the size of the United States to develop, then we can't afford to have second-rate people or people lacking in character and quality.

The most valuable export that Australia can send abroad is the Australian who goes as a technician or a professional man into one of these countries to our North to give guidance and training a projection of Australia as a helpful kindly country with people of character and quality who can make a contribution to security and progress in this part of the world. It will be one of my own tasks as your Prime Minister to encourage this process. I can believe that Australia can do a great deal by the positive constructive type of diplomacy - using that word in its widest sense - where Australians go out and make Australia better known in a constructive and helpful way around the world and in particular around the world to the North of us.

Now I have mentioned something about the established economic situation but let me say a word about the prospects. I said a word or two in this direction but my friend, Charles Court ought to be taking over this part of what I have to say because he is the best national salesman in political circles that I know. You will be discovering this in more detail, no doubt, tomorrow but having established the pattern and structure that I have mentioned, forward prospects continue to read most attractively. We have our own good population growth rate and we have a good growth rate with population and productivity going together. But our population rate - I have been pointing this out to some of our distinguished visitors, in particular Denis Healey, the British Minister for Defence, and Vice-President Humphrey; we have a population growth rate something of the order of upwards of 2 per cent, the United Kingdom .8 of 1 per cent and at the last year of record, the United States 1.3 per cent. Others may choose to ignore this, but we can't ignore it. It is a fact of life for us. It imposes considerable burden and stress upon us to provide the housing, the schools, and the hospitals, as I am sure my State colleagues here will bear witness, quite convincingly. And so here is itself a factor for economic growth in the future.

Then we add to this ^{the} story which Charles, I imagine, will be expanding for you, of the exploration which has produced the fabulous mineral discoveries in our North and in the West and indeed in various other parts of Australia as well, not to ignore the natural gas so far discovered which can make such a contribution for economic development. But these are things which in the mineral field alone, could on a not over-optimistic estimate bring us, within ten years' time, an export income equalling or surpassing that which we will be receiving or are receiving concurrently from our wool production. So this means quite a striking and indeed almost fabulous addition to our resources.

Then there is the element, as yet I believe in its early stages, of our trade with Asia. Who would have imagined in his wildest hopes that Australia would have built up in these last ten years or so the kind of regular trade - not fluke trade but regular and growing trade that we have with Japan. The figures may interest you. In 1951/52, Australia's exports to Japan were \$97 million in value. Last year, which was not the highest on record, they were \$441 million. In other words, a 350 per cent increase on the figure of 1951/52. This, I repeat, would not have been dreamed of ten or fifteen years ago, and yet as we see it, we know it is only the beginning. In respect of Japanese iron ore contracts alone, and Charles correct me if my total is too low, we have contracts, I understand, completed for the sale of Australian iron ore to the tune of \$2,320 million. So that we can face, I believe, our future in economic terms confidently.

As Japan develops its own standards and grows with its own internal demands, it will supply an increasing part of Asian demand. This will be a demand which, with a more sensitive world conscience on this issue of rising expectations and the under-privileged areas of the world, there will be gradual but increasing - as I can tell you from our own provision of international aid - there will be increasing assistance being given to other countries which in turn will want their demands satisfied by foodstuffs, raw materials, industrial equipment, all of which Australia is well placed in this area of the world, with the

resources we know about, to assist in supplying.

And we have, as part of this story, the determination of President Johnson and his Administration, reflecting, I believe, the views of the American people generally, that their great concept of the great society is not to be limited to the United States alone. He has already indicated that he is willing to provide a billion dollar fund for Asian Development. America has come handsomely into the provision of capital for the Asian Development Bank with \$200M. We, recognising the importance for the whole area of such a bank, have accepted a much higher than our proportionate share of contribution by a commitment of \$85M (American).

Now as these institutions, these Funds, get under way and make their worth felt, we, in turn, must derive some commercial benefit from this; whether it is in the area of foodstuffs, minerals, raw materials or a growing volume of manufactured exports, this is something which Australia will be able to do.

So let us turn now for a moment or two to the challenges which show up clearly in the international fields and the most urgent and the most worrying of these, of course, is in South Viet Nam. We, as an Australian Government, have been firm in our own views and conclusions about this situation from the outset. We have seen this, as we have seen so many other of these critical challenges of the post-war years, as further evidence of the communist determination to spread its philosophy, its doctrine through the world so far as this proves possible for it, probing here and there, finding a weak spot, trying to build up the pressures. We see it currently at its most manifest in South Viet Nam, but I have been talking yesterday and today with the representatives of Thailand and they would be telling you of the pressures to which they are being subject on their North, on their East, on their West from the Communist influence, and we have seen this, as I am glad to say the President of the United States and his Administration have seen it, as another challenge to free peoples throughout the world.

Now gentlemen, if this is your view, and I think it would be, because I know that in our own Parliament in the two Government Parties, there is not one member elected to represent the people in those two Government Parties who does not subscribe wholeheartedly to the Government's policy of support in South Viet Nam and a backing for the American policies there. But I don't want you to feel that you can just leave it to your Parliamentarians, if on a great national question such as this, touching the very security of the nation, touching the security of free peoples everywhere, we can afford to allow the politician only to persuade, to convince, to argue on this issue in our national community. Here, if you believe these things is scope for you individually in the positions of leadership that you occupy, and we can't afford to allow a situation to develop in which the only voices heard are the voices of dissent. You and I might believe, and indeed know, that this represents only a handful in the population, that its influence is not great, but if you allow it to go, of course, uncorrected, or unchallenged, a small influence can become a larger one. This is what the President is finding. This is what we, for our part, are finding. And if there is any doubter in this room of the essential character of the challenge, the critical nature of it, in South Viet Nam, I wish he would write to me and tell me. I shall send him by the return of post, the copy of the speech which Vice-President Humphrey made on this matter, one of the most compelling and moving public speeches I have ever heard. And if anybody remains unconvinced after the evidence that he brings forward, then he lacks the capacity for conviction.

And we've seen, gentlemen, this challenge; how many times does it have to be levelled before we recognise it in whatever particular form it emerges. We saw it in Berlin. We saw it in the so-called Greek civil war. As Vice-President Humphrey pointed out, what a remarkable thing that when

Yugoslavia fell out with the Soviet and cut off that supply line from the Soviet to Greece, the civil war disappeared. And in other situations, whether it is in Cuba, whether it is in Berlin or in Greece, or in Korea, or now in South Viet Nam, or in the probes that are going on in Laos, Thailand and other countries in South-East Asia, this threat to free peoples has to be met. And what an extraordinary thing it is, illustrating the confusion of mind on this matter, that you will get a great paper like the "New York Times" which will urge the Administration to defend Berlin to the last American soldier that can be sent there and yet next day will write a powerful editorial and go on doing so, urging them to pull out of the issue in South Viet Nam.

We are told sometimes that we oversimplify the problem. I am afraid there are far too many people around the world who over-complicate it. And of course you can point to very sincere people amongst the Viet Cong. No man offers his life unless he believes quite strongly in what is happening around him, but there have been people before that the communists have steered for their own purposes. They have got on the popular band-waggon and all the evidence that comes to us is overwhelmingly convincing that here is a challenge which is guided from Hanoi and which in turn is masterminded from Peking. Well, there in brief is a reference to Viet Nam, but we mustn't brush it out of consciousness as something that isn't vital to Australia's own security. If we can't hold the line in South Viet Nam with all the weight of American strength, if we can't hold it there, who can tell me where it can be held anywhere in South-East Asia.

I would like to just mention a word or two to you about our talks with Mr. Healey because these were fundamental, and indeed quite historic, because what was involved here was a dialogue about the British role in the world. You have noticed even since the publication of the White Paper one of the Ministers has resigned, giving as his main reason for the resignation that he disagrees with the strategic concept, that in his view Britain should withdraw, should not have forces east of Suez, and this view was advanced by the shadow Defence Minister on the Conservative side, Enoch Powell some time ago. I have reason to believe that it is not a universally held view in the Conservative Party or even in the Shadow Cabinet of the Conservative Party, but it was put forward publicly by their Shadow Minister, and so this is more than just editorial stuff or literary criticism or debating society material. These issues are urgent topical, vital issues for the security of this country. Mr. Healey, quite obviously from the recent actions of his colleagues, has been under much pressure to adopt the line of withdrawal East of Suez and when he reached us, I think he felt there would be a very limited life to their occupancy of the base in Singapore.

Well, at least one value which came from those discussions, and there were several important conclusions which we were able to reach together, but one at least was to impress on him our view of the importance of the British presence in this area of the world, the importance of the retention of the base in Singapore for as long as this was humanly possible, an assurance that in our view, a British presence there far from being resented by the peoples of Asia, would be accepted by them as a moderating and stabilizing influence, contributing to their security rather than a source of disturbance and restlessness and turbulence amongst their people.

I am glad to say this view was endorsed when he reached Singapore and Kuala Lumpur and it was a view which was endorsed by the representatives of the Thai Government with which we have been holding discussions in these last two days. And so has emerged this quite notable decision of the British Government to remain in effect a world influence, not to withdraw and adopt a quite narrow view of their international responsibilities, but to maintain a global role, to maintain substantial forces in this area of the world and to remain on in Singapore for as long as that proves humanly practicable.

What did flow from it also was acceptance by us of the view that although they might decide and have now decided to remain there, it may prove, as a result of developments which no-one can at this time foresee, that a base in Singapore cannot be sustained. Well it was put in that blunt and friendly fashion that Mr. Healey has that if Britain couldn't stay there, it had nowhere else to go and had to go home unless it could come to Australia. So we shall, in our planning of our own base facilities for the future, and indeed taking into account this contingency, be bringing our attention to the possibilities which could develop here, and conducting discussions at the Service level with representatives of the British Government.

Now, remember, he was talking about problems which might arise in the 1970's, even the 1990's. Our own situation is not going to be transformed overnight, but what we will be doing in the years ahead will be planning, will be acting in such a way that we guard against the sort of dangers which your own judgements will conjure up for you.

What flows from all of this, from the talks with the United States which has become so heavily committed in terms of manpower and military equipment and undertakings to conduct a constructive, positive programme of peaceful economic development in that area of the world, was that it obviously involves for Australia a growing commitment over the years. The lesson is there, or the writing is there for us, that we must become more self-reliant to meet the variety of dangers which can threaten us in the future.

I spoke a little earlier of our trade with Japan. We have immediately to the North of us 100 million people in what has become a virtually bankrupt and disorganised economy, with turbulence of a political kind, the outcome of which no-one at this point can foresee. Australian trade with Indonesia in the same year that I mentioned with Japan (1951-52) was \$8M. Last year it was \$7M against \$441M for Japan. Eighty million of people well organised with a strong, buoyant economy, industrialised with rising standards in one direction; 100 million people subjected to this turbulence, this economic failure which one sees immediately to our North, and here is a country with which we have a common boundary in New Guinea.

So Australia, ladies and gentlemen, has been jolted not merely into adulthood but into a maturity of attitudes and approach; a requirement of a maturity of decision which we have not known in the degree we have to confront it today at any earlier point in our history.

I don't mention these things to you in any pessimistic spirit because I believe that this country has a destiny in Asia which should excite us all. Indeed, one of the heartening things is to discover amongst the leaders of the countries of Asia how much Australia is respected as friend and ally, as donor of international aid, and it is not the big costly things that matter so terribly much in their eyes.

One of the most significant elements of aid that the Prime Minister of Thailand was mentioning to me was a military training school we have in his country for technical training of people who go into the services. Those now going to the school are being approached by private employers before they are through their training, wanting to get them for the industry of Thailand. Well, at least there is a gain in an industrial sense. And here, by this kind of provision, he pointed to some road construction that we were carrying out. I am sure Pat Morton could suggest a few places around his own State where roads could be built.

But this sort of thing, not hundreds of millions of dollars of aid but friendly, technical advice with the man on the spot, whom they can see, whom they can talk to and regard as a friend. In these ways, I believe, we are helping to strengthen our neighbours to our North. In these ways, eventually, I believe, we will find the means of knitting more closely together the countries interested in this area.

Now my concluding point on all this is that we see in what faces us in the future - not just Australia, but all those of like-minded ideas in relation to the future - we see a tremendous need for the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia and New Zealand to get together, to co-ordinate what they are doing, work out together what our objectives should be, what our goals are, how we see the future, what we feel we can do together. Our resources are not so vast that we can afford to squander them and we feel that it will be by our joint efforts, facing common tasks, that we shall achieve most effectively what lies within each of us to do.

Finally, here we have in this country of ours another great asset in the co-operating democracy that we have established. You can go to Darwin, or Perth or Brisbane; people will be listening to the national news at about the same time, making due allowances for the time changes in West and South Australia, but here we have a remarkably homogeneous people of very much more similar outlook than you will find even in the British Isles or any other country that you could name. This, itself, is a tremendous national asset, and at the various levels of Government - Commonwealth, State, Municipal - I believe we have a closer teamwork today and a better-willed one, more cordial and co-operative teamwork than I have known at any earlier point of the Australian Federation. And when we look out from government to industry, I know that next week we shall be conferring again with many of you, some of you anyhow, who are in this room tonight, some of the leaders in the field of manufacturing, export advice, and the leaders of industry, who will see us as a particular group in the course of the afternoon.

Now this has become a regular exercise twice a year, trying to get into the minds of industry, talking to those who come to us freshly from the market place, trying to get the best picture we can before we launch into major economic decisions by the Government.

So I mention these things. They are taken by so many for granted. Here we are at this point of time having established as very few countries in the world can claim to have established, a co-operating democracy in which the rights of minorities are safeguarded, as they must be in any true democracy, and in which the national effort is channelled the more successfully because of the teamwork we have produced.

Now, of course, we haven't reached perfection, and we never will, but your organisation will be a step along the road to a better result than we have achieved in the past, and I would hope that in the course of your own discussions you would spare a thought for the Parliament as an institution.

In this country, the Parliament doesn't enjoy the respect it does in many other democracies, although I believe the quality of service is just as high and the quality of representation and membership is as high. One doesn't develop any inferiority complex after participating in Parliamentary Conferences with others around the world. Your toughest competition is right back home, in my experience, as it is in so many other directions. But gentlemen - and I exclude the ladies on this because I am sure they give the Parliament the respect it deserves anyhow - but, gentlemen, a community which can't respect its Parliament really can't respect itself because we are drawn from the community, we are there to serve

the community, and if you don't like us, please replace us by something better. At the moment it doesn't seem to be on the horizon but one can never be sure!

Well, gentlemen, one could, of course, go on at much greater length but I am appalled at my own effrontery when I recall that in the course of this day you have been addressed with such skill at such length by the distinguished spokesmen of whom we heard a little earlier. But can I say in my last sentence to you that to an Australian leader it is a tremendously heartening thing, not only to feel the good will which has been radiating to me from all gathered here tonight, but to feel that from people of the quality that I see represented here will be moulded the Australia of the future, and in that I have every confidence and great pride.