

EMBARGOED

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NOVEMBER

"THE GROWTH OF A NATION"

Transcript of Election Telecast by the Prime Minister,  
Mr. Harold Holt

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I want to say something to you in the broad about our domestic programme for the next three years. You have no doubt read much of the detail; but before I talk about our programme, let me remind you that how we are to carry on with the development of this continent and how best we can make our country secure is the very core of this election campaign.

How we do these things is the great issue of this election.

(Film Sequence on Security)

It is not possible, in the space of a few minutes, to talk fully about the growth of this nation of ours. But the truth, of course, is that you can't grasp the story of Australian achievement in recent years through statistics alone.

The real discovery is to feel in your bones what is happening in a country bursting into rich, adult nationhood with its greater tomorrows ahead.

Seventeen years ago, when we came to office, we resolved to do one thing above all else - to produce our way to prosperity. This plan, quickly realized, evolved into our long-term objective of national development with national stability. Within that time more than half the homes in Australia today have been built.

An expanding economy, full employment, a rapidly growing population - all these things have helped to give us one of the highest living standards in the world.

All this is worth preserving.

We believe that our domestic and foreign policies are right for Australia at this point of time; we are certain they are more in tune with the national outlook than the policies of our Labor Party opponents.

Naturally, we give our constant attention to our national security in a changing and dangerous part of the world. But our primary aim is to push on with our development at home, to make Australia not only a bigger and stronger country but a good country for men and women and their children to live in, to prosper in, to be happy in.

Back in 1963 we broke new ground, particularly on

education and housing. Education is of vital importance to every parent and child - and to the nation itself. Ours is not a big country in numbers, so we must be big in quality. And that's why education looms so large. Under our Federal Constitution education is one of the subject matters reserved to the States but we as a Federal Government are willingly doing more and more to help.

In my Policy Speech I have proposed new and important Commonwealth assistance to education. Our decision to appoint a Commonwealth Minister for Education is further evidence of our good intentions.

We made notable advances in the housing policies we announced in 1963. The Home Savings Grant Scheme and the Housing Loans Insurance Corporation have played their part in making Australia a great home-owning democracy. Already we have the highest percentage of home-ownership in the world. But ours is a continuing programme. We now propose a special effort to give more help and comfort to our older citizens.

In the field of social justice we have looked again at the means test - and gone further along the road of liberalisation.

There isn't time to go into detail tonight about the plans we have for the further development of our great primary industries and the development of our vast northern areas.

The central government of our country has become both demanding and complex. There are great and far-reaching matters constantly before us. The business of government is certainly not for our Labor Party opponents in their present condition. They have frequently shown they can't be of the same mind for one week on end.

On the larger questions of national security and on the equally important questions of national progress, economic stability and the well-being of the individual, we have put before you principles and a programme which we firmly believe are in the best interests of our country and of you, its people.

You have a clear-cut choice on November 26. Cast it wisely for yourself and for Australia.

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(This Telecast will be programmed by the A.B.C. Network at 7.30 p.m., 21st November, 1966.)