

FOR PRESS:



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CORIO BY-ELECTION RESULT

Comment by the Prime Minister, Mr Harold Holt

Labor has had a good win in Corio and Mr Scholes is entitled to his congratulations.

No doubt some electors felt they could give the Government a knock without the risk of changing it, and there were some local factors contributing to the swing from the Government.

In a by-election, voting usually runs against the ruling party but is a notoriously unreliable barometer to voting at a general election. This was demonstrated last year when Labor's win in Dawson was followed by their greatest rout in history at the subsequent general election.

I still believe we offered Corio the best candidate and the best policies. The majority of the voters preferred a local man despite the uncertainties which persist in regard to future Labor policies and organisation.

Mr Whitlam, who literally installed himself in the electorate, will gain credit from many for the contribution from his vigorous campaigning, just as he will lose credibility with others for the gross misstatements he so blatantly perpetrated.

Our reverse in Corio will make us determined to regain that seat at the first opportunity.

CANBERRA,
23rd July, 1967.