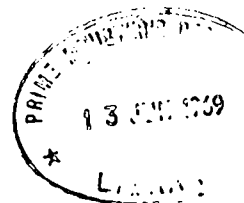


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BENDIGO BY-ELECTION

Comment by the Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton



I congratulate Councillor Cambridge on the results of the Bendigo By-Election.

It is too early to say who will win the seat, and the distribution of preferences will decide this.

But considering the Labor Party had an absolute majority of primary votes at the last three House of Representatives' elections for Bendigo - and that by-elections traditionally go against sitting governments - I believe the Liberal Party and its candidate have done well.

My congratulations go also to the Country Party's Ralph Hunt for retaining Gwydir for the Government.

CANBERRA
8 June 1969