



FOR PRESS :

: PM. No. 65, 1970

RECEIPTS DUTY : OPPOSITION CHALLENGE

Comment: by the Prime Minister, Mr John Gorton

Mr Whitlam seems to be under two false impressions. One is that it is he and not the Government which decides what are election issues. The other is that he is thwarting the Commonwealth Government when in fact he is thwarting the States.

He is apparently threatening that the Labor Party in the States House, the Senate, will deny the States access to a field of growth tax to which they want access, and trying to claim that this affects the Commonwealth Government.

In fact, in this matter, the Commonwealth Government is only acting at the request of the States, as the agent for the States, to enable them to collect revenue in the future which they would not otherwise be able to collect. This revenue would be in addition to any agreed amounts made available from Commonwealth Revenue as a result of the new arrangements being worked out between us and the States.

Labor will therefore deny the States the capacity to help themselves in the future. If he accepts this responsibility, his quarrel is with the State Governments, not with the Commonwealth Government, and he should direct his posturing to them.

CANBERRA,
10 June 1970