

Miss Bates
71/64A

EMBARGOED UNTIL 3.30 PM ON SUNDAY 13 JUNE

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

THE QUEENSLAND LIBERAL CONVENTION

SPEECH NOTES FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

SUNDAY, 13 JUNE, 1971.

GENTLEMEN :

THIS IS MY SECOND VISIT TO QUEENSLAND SINCE I BECAME PRIME MINISTER. I AM GLAD TO BE HERE FOR TWO PARTICULAR REASONS.

Liberal Party

ONE IS THAT I KNOW HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR THE LEADER OF THE FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARY LIBERALS TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE ORGANISATION AND ITS MEMBERS AT STATE LEVEL - AS WELL AS FEDERAL LEVEL.

THE OTHER IS THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE LIBERALS IN QUEENSLAND WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT BEARING ON THE OUTCOME OF THE NEXT FEDERAL ELECTION

LET ME SAY I KNOW WE CAN WIN, BUT I WANT US TO WIN HANDSOMELY. TO DO THAT WE MUST BE BUSY IN THE RIGHT WAY AND WE MUST GET BUSY RIGHT AWAY. THERE IS NO DOUBT WE WILL BE JUDGED BY OUR PERFORMANCE AND OUR PERFORMANCE WILL DEPEND ON HOW STRONGLY WE PULL TOGETHER WITH OUR COALITION COLLEAGUES.

SPEAKING FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY PARTY, I WANT TO HAVE A GOOD AND INTIMATE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PARTY ORGANISATION. BOB SOUTHEY STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS AT OUR FEDERAL COUNCIL IN CANBERRA THE OTHER DAY.

I AGREE WITH WHAT HE SAID. I DO NOT LOOK AT THE PARLIAMENTARY PARTY AS A LAW UNTO ITSELF. IT IS BOUND BY THE PRINCIPLES AND PLATFORM OF THE LIBERAL PARTY. THESE ARE BROAD ENOUGH AND FLEXIBLE ENOUGH FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY PARTY TO HAVE ELBOW ROOM IN HOW IT APPLIES THEM TO SPECIFIC ISSUES.

THE ORGANISATION WOULD NEVER WANT US TO BE "DUMB, DRIVEN CATTLE", LIKE OUR OPPOSITION, HAVING LITTLE LATITUDE AND VIRTUALLY NO FREEDOM FROM THE DICTATORSHIP OF A FEDERAL CONFERENCE. BY THE SAME TOKEN, I, FOR ONE, DO NOT EXPECT THE PARLIAMENTARY PARTY TO JUST RUN WILD ON THE RANGE.

THEN IT REMAINS ESSENTIALLY A LIBERAL CONCEPT THAT THE PARLIAMENTARY PARTY HAS SUBSTANTIAL DISCRETION IN WHAT IT DOES. BUT IT HAS TO USE THAT DISCRETION WISELY, AND IT ALSO HAS TO SUCCEED.

LIKE BOB SOUTHEY, I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE TO LISTEN TO WHAT THE MEMBERS, THE BRANCHES AND THE COUNCILS HAVE TO SAY. THIS IS ONE AREA WHERE WE MUST LOOK FOR NEW IDEAS. THIS IS WHERE SO MANY OF OUR REFORMS

BEGIN. THIS IS WHERE THE ROOTS OF OUR SUCCESS OR FAILURE GO DOWN.

THEN IT IS UP TO THE PARLIAMENTARY PARTY TO INTERPRET PARTY POLICY IN ITS OWN WAY AND WITH A TIMING OF ITS OWN CHOOSING WHEN IT COMES TO LEGISLATIVE ACTION.

I BELIEVE THE PARLIAMENTARY PARTY IS IN GOOD HEART AND IT WILL BE IN GOOD SHAPE FOR THE NEXT ELECTION.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE STATES

Federal System

A GOOD DEAL HAS BEEN SAID LATELY ABOUT THE FEDERAL SYSTEM AND I ACKNOWLEDGE HERE THE LEADING ROLE THE FEDERAL COUNCIL AND THE PARTY ORGANISATION HAS PLAYED IN UNDERPINNING IT IN A MODERN CONTEXT.

I BELIEVE IN THE FEDERAL SYSTEM.

I RESPECT AND UNDERSTAND THE POSITION AND RIGHTS OF THE STATES. I DO NOT BELIEVE IN CENTRALISATION OR IN A CONTRIVED FLOW OF POWER TO THE CENTRE THAT ERODES THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE STATES.

IN SOME MATTERS - LIKE NATIONAL ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT, DEFENCE AND TRADE, THE COMMONWEALTH MUST HAVE NATIONAL POWERS, BUT THESE CAN BE HELD WITHOUT DAMAGE TO THE STATES, GIVEN CO-OPERATION AND GOODWILL ON BOTH SIDES.

OUR INTENTION TO ARRANGE A GROWTH TAX WITH THE STATES - WHICH WE WILL BE DISCUSSING NEXT WEEK - IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE EFFORT WE ARE MAKING TO MAKE THE FEDERAL SYSTEM WORK MORE EFFECTIVELY.

CANBERRA AND BRISBANE CAN WORK TOGETHER EFFECTIVELY. THE QUEENSLAND AND COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENTS HAVE COME SOME DISTANCE IN OUR RECENT TALKS ON ABORIGINES AND ON THE INQUIRIES WE AGREED ON TOGETHER INTO OIL DRILLING ON THE BARRIER REEF, THE CROWN OF THORNS STARFISH AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REEF AS A TOURIST DESTINATION.

I QUOTE THESE ONLY AS EXAMPLES OF THE VALUE OF GETTING TOGETHER. THERE IS A HOST OF OTHER MATTERS AND MANY OF THEM WILL BE GIVEN AN AIRING AT THE PREMIERS' CONFERENCE IN CANBERRA IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

THE RECORD AND THE FUTURE

I THINK THE PROBLEMS WE ARE UP AGAINST AS A GOVERNMENT ARE THESE :-

- (1) THE CONTINUING INDUSTRIAL UNREST WHICH IS COMPOUNDING THE EFFECTS OF INFLATIONARY PRESSURES ON THE ECONOMY.

(II) THE NEED TO LIMIT SOME OF THE REFORMS WE WANT TO MAKE BECAUSE WE HAVE TO WATCH PUBLIC SPENDING AS AN ANTI-INFLATIONARY MEASURE.

(III) THERE IS A NEED FOR A POSITIVE DISPLAY OF VITALITY IN THE ORGANISATION. THE AUSTRALIAN LIKES TO THINK ABOUT HAVING A CHANGE EVEN WHEN THINGS ARE GOING RIGHT FOR HIM.

NONE OF THESE PROBLEMS IS BEYOND US. I KNOW WE CAN HANDLE THEM TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE ELECTORATE, BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE COMPLACENT ABOUT IT, AND THERE ARE SOME ASPECTS OF THESE PROBLEMS BEYOND THE AUTHORITY OF GOVERNMENTS.

WE MUST TREAT EACH PROBLEM AS URGENT AND EACH DAY AS A DAY TO GET SOMETHING MORE DONE.

THE RECORD OF THE LAST THREE MONTHS IS GOOD.

SOME OF MY STAFF WENT THROUGH THE LIST OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGISLATIVE CHANGES THE OTHER DAY AND CAME UP WITH THIRTY OR MORE WORTHWHILE ACHIEVEMENTS OF A NATIONAL CHARACTER WE HAVE DONE AS A GOVERNMENT SINCE THE MIDDLE OF MARCH.

I WON'T GO THROUGH THEM ALL - HEAVEN FORBID -
BUT LET ME MENTION THREE OR FOUR OF THEM.

FIRST, OUR MEETING WITH THE STATES WHEN WE
AGREED ON SOME EMERGENCY FINANCE TO HELP THEIR
DEFICITS WAS A GOOD BEGINNING. THE ATMOSPHERE WAS
CORDIAL, THOUGH I RETAIN A HEALTHY RESPECT FOR THE
TOUGHNESS AND SKILLS OF THE PREMIERS.

I HOPE OUR FORTHCOMING MEETING WILL TAKE
PLACE IN THE SAME SPIRIT AND I SEE NO REASON WHY IT
SHOULD NOT.

THEN THERE WAS SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO
PENSIONERS TO MEET THE DRAIN ON THEIR RESOURCES
FOLLOWING THE UNEXPECTED RISE IN THE NATIONAL WAGE.

THERE WAS THE DEPARTMENTAL REORGANISATION
IN CANBERRA TO SPEED-UP THE POLICY-MAKING FUNCTIONS
OF GOVERNMENT AND THE CREATION OF A NEW MINISTRY
TO GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE ENVIRONMENT,
ABORIGINES AND THE ARTS.

AND THEN, IN FOREIGN POLICY, WE BROUGHT UP
INTO OUR FOCUS OUR FUTURE RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA, WITH
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND JAPAN.

WE ALSO JOINED THE ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

OTHER ACTIVITIES COVERED NEW LEGISLATION ON LAW AND ORDER, A REVIEW OF THE ARBITRATION SYSTEM, SPECIAL AID FOR OUR HARD-PRESSED RURAL INDUSTRIES AND PLANS FOR A NEW PROGRAMME FOR PAPUA-NEW GUINEA TO GIVE IT AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE ITS OWN CHOICE OF A DATE FOR INTERNAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

*Business
Aid
E. Pakistan - India*

I WOULD LIKE TO ADD HERE A FEW WORDS ON THE AID WE ARE GIVING TO REFUGEES FROM EAST PAKISTAN IN INDIA.

THIS IS THE SCENE OF A GREAT HUMAN TRAGEDY.

OUR RESPONSE AS A GOVERNMENT WAS IMMEDIATE. THE FIRST COMMITMENT OF HALF A MILLION DOLLARS IN AID WAS CONSIDERED EVEN BEFORE THE ENORMITY OF THE DISASTER WAS FULLY KNOWN OR ANY APPEALS HAD BEEN MADE.

WE DOUBLED THAT COMMITMENT AS THE DISASTER GREW IN SIZE. THE CRITICISM WE HAVE HAD IS UNFAIR AND BASED ON LITTLE KNOWLEDGE.

MY GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED THAT TO BE EFFECTIVE WE HAD TO SEND THE AID THAT INDIA WANTED AND SEND IT WHERE THAT COUNTRY WANTED IT SENT. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ABSURD TO HAVE SENT SUPPLIES OF VACCINE, FOOD AND SHELTER MATERIALS OFF INTO THE BLUE. THAT WOULD HAVE ONLY ADDED TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE LOCAL PEOPLE.

IT IS DIFFICULT TO WAIT EVEN A SHORT WHILE WHEN EMOTIONS AND SYMPATHIES ARE RUNNING HIGH FOR SOMETHING TO BE DONE AT ONCE, BUT IN TERMS OF REAL HELP WE DID WHAT WAS RIGHT.

I DON'T THINK ANY AUSTRALIANS NEED FEEL ASHAMED OF THEIR GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE CRY FOR HELP FROM OUR FELLOW MEMBER OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

BEFORE I CLOSE ONE COMMENT ABOUT THE FUTURE.

*Inflation
The Future*

IF WE CAN CONTAIN INFLATION - AND THIS IS A REALLY SERIOUS PROBLEM - THEN I AM CONFIDENT WE CAN KEEP UP A GROWTH RATE OF OVER FIVE PER CENT IN OUR GNP EACH YEAR, AND GIVEN MORE FREEDOM FROM THE PROBLEMS I HAVE ALREADY MENTIONED WE COULD EVEN DO MUCH BETTER THAN THAT.

BUT LET US NOT THINK ONLY IN TERMS OF STATISTICS. THEY ARE DULL AND INHUMAN THINGS. LET US THINK RATHER IN TERMS OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE WE WANT FOR OURSELVES AND OUR CHILDREN.

EACH ONE OF US HAS HIS OWN DEFINITION. IT IS BOUND UP WITH HOW WE LIVE, WHERE WE LIVE, WHAT WE DO AND WHAT IS THE MEASURE OF OUR SATISFACTION AND HAPPINESS AS INDIVIDUALS IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY.

GOVERNMENTS CAN THINK OF THE PROBLEMS OF LIVING IN TERMS OF URBAN PLANNING, OF PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT, CONTROLLING POLLUTION, HELPING THOSE IN NEED, ENCOURAGING THE ARTS.

BUT IN THE FINAL RESULT IT IS THE WAY THE INDIVIDUAL RESPONDS, THE PART HE PLAYS IN ALL THIS THAT MAKES UP THE QUALITY OF AUSTRALIAN LIFE.

AND I THINK THE FREEDOMS THAT GO WITH LIBERALISM AND WITH A FREE ENTERPRISE SOCIETY ARE THE ONES THAT ALLOW US TO MAKE OUR QUALITY OF LIFE GOOD, REAL AND LASTING.

I AM SURE OF THIS -- THE FUTURE OF QUEENSLAND, NO LESS THAN THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIA, LIES IN THE HANDS OF THE LIBERAL-MINDED, CONTROL-FREE PEOPLE IN OUR SOCIETY.

THAT IS HOW IT HAS BEEN FOR TWENTY-ONE YEARS OR MORE. LET US KEEP IT THAT WAY. I THANK YOU.