



## PRIME MINISTER

MACQUARIE NETWORK WEEKLY BROADCAST  
BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE RT. HON.  
WILLIAM McMAHON, CH, MP.

### IMMIGRATION

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Interviewer : Paul Lynch

Q. Prime Minister, on Macquarie stations last night, I conducted what is called a "Five Cent Poll". People were invited to call in and talk about what they consider to be the issues of the 1972 election. Many, many people who called in said they considered immigration to be one of the major issues. The ALP, of course, has brought out a number of proposals on immigration. You have not spoken out very much on this issue. How do you feel about the ALP programme for immigration?

PM: I think it would be disastrous for this country, both in economic terms, and of course, they would destroy our policy of having one single Australian community. In other words, when we allow, or we attract migrants to come here, we want them to be integrated into one homogenous society. That is our policy, and I believe the alternative - the Labor policy - would destroy both of the objectives that we seek.

Q. A brief summation of the ALP policy would be in effect that they seek to remove racial discrimination, they wish to reduce the numbers of migrants coming to Australia and they would want migrants to come to this country who had been nominated by their families. How do you see that as being disastrous to this country's economy?

Q. Well, at least 50 per cent of the migrants who come here now were nominated by the Commonwealth or State Governments and not by individual nomination. When we nominate them in the Commonwealth or the States, it means that we pick the people we want, and to a very large extent they go to the developing areas such as the North-West where our mineral development is taking place or up around the Gladstone area and places of that kind. What it would mean, therefore, is that we would cut down on our development substantially and our growth would be stunted. You would also find that migration from the United Kingdom would be reduced by probably as much as 60 per cent. Migration from North America and Northern Europe and South America would be practically cut out and there would be a big reduction in migration from Southern Europe. All this would have a bad effect on us because it would take away from the traditional migration links between the two countries.

Q. You seem particularly worried about this process of personal nomination the ALP is putting forward, particularly in respect to non-European immigrants. Why is that?

PM: I am interested in this for social purposes because we want, as I have said a few minutes ago, an integrated Australian society. We don't want little enclaves scattered all over the place with the difficulties that they create. Now, if you adopt a policy of non-discrimination, this would mean that over time, in the long run - not in the short period - that we would greatly harm this policy because the non-Europeans nominate large numbers of relatives and friends, and as they do this and the numbers increase and they go on multiplying, then you would find that you would have a disproportionately large number of non-Europeans coming into the community. That I believe would be contrary to our policy and contrary to the best interests of the Australian people and, I believe, too, of the migrants themselves.

Q. In view of the public interest in immigration in the election campaign, do you plan to announce any reforms or changes of goal in your Party's and your Government's immigration policy?

PM: No. What we have done is to establish a committee of enquiry on population, and we want that committee to look at every aspect of population - births and deaths, immigration and emigration, the numbers that we can absorb and the best distribution of population in order to ensure that we can develop Australia to the full but at the same time protect environmental conditions and establish qualities of life that we think the Australian people want.

Q. You would want a report from that commission before you decided on any change in plans?

PM: Yes, and as it is an in-depth study, we do not think we would be able to get that report until the 1973-1974 Budget year.

Q. Prime Minister, thank you very much.

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