

## PRIME MINISTER

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

UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES

18 OCTOBER 1972

Interviewer: Paul Lynch

- Q. Prime Minister, some weeks ago in your weekly report on Macquarie stations you said that you would be pleased with the unemployment figures to be released this week and that they would be figures not capable of misinterpretation. The figures have come out and evidently people on your side of the House in Canberra are very pleased with them. I wonder what you would like to say about these figures now that they are public?
- PM:

  I want to confirm what you have said that most people would have to be pleased with them because both in actual numbers, that is, the fact themselves, there was a substantial reduction in unemployment, and as well, there was a reduction in the numbers of people seasonally unemployed. And as I think I pointed out on that occasion, you didn't want to take too much notice of seasonally unemployed figures. They are for the experts and not for the ordinary person, the average person, because the average person wants to look at the numbers and the facts, and doesn't want to care too much about analysis.
- Q. There was, of course, a lot of speculation about the improvement you are talking about. A lot of people said the figure would be something like 5,000 more people that is of course about 8,000. Were you, yourself, surprised that the decrease in unemployed was so great?
- PM: Yes. I thought that it would be about 5,000 and I had taken the view that unless it was more than 4,500, we would have to take some supplementary action to reduce the numbers. When it turned out a reduction of 8,000, I can assure you I was delighted.

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