



DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER
AND CABINET

PRIME MINISTER

Press Statement 244

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OPPOSITION POLICY SPEECH - STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Snedden's policy speech is a document of gross political irresponsibility - a document of desperation and deception.

He produces a host of vague, uncosted, contradictory promises. They are wildly inflationary promises.

He refuses to provide any estimate of the cost of his promises. The Australian people are entitled to this information.

He refuses to say clearly and unequivocally what areas of government spending he would cut in order to reduce inflation. The Australian people are entitled to this information.

Behind Mr. Snedden's vague and ominous talk of hard decisions lies a threat to every initiative my Government has undertaken in education, welfare, transport, the cities.

Mr. Snedden's only definite proposal for curbing inflation is to call a meeting. Even then he refuses to tell us what he would propose at such a meeting. He does not say because he does not know. He deliberately deceives the people when he says the Labor Government has raised taxes. We have not raised taxes. The fact is that the average wage earner in 1973 was better off after taxes than in 1972.

For all Mr. Snedden's scare talk and hysteria, Australians know that they have never been more prosperous. They have full employment and high wages. The economy is buoyant. The dollar is one of the world's strongest currencies. Our trade is booming. Company profits are at record levels. The latest price figures show that our policies to control inflation - the world-wide problem of inflation - are working. It would be tragic if the good progress we have made were to be undone by Mr. Snedden's reckless and irresponsible bid for power.

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