

PRICES

The Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, said today the policies of the Queensland Government were pushing up prices.

"The States have the power to control prices but Mr. Bjelke-Petersen refuses to use this power," Mr. Whitlam said.

"He campaigned against our referendum last year to give the national government the power to control prices."

"Yet prices in Queensland are rising faster than in any other State."

"South Australia, where there is a Labor Government, has used its powers effectively to check the land price spiral."

"This is something every State can do."

"If the Queensland Government co-operated with us in setting up a Land Commission, as the three Liberal States are doing, we could reduce the price of land for the home buyer."

"If the Queensland Government allowed the Australian National Line to operate between Queensland ports it could cut shipping freights. "

"If Mr. Bjelke-Petersen accepted our offer to take financial responsibility for State railways, we could cut the cost of rail freights."

"If he co-operated with our plan to reduce electricity costs in Queensland we could check price rises over a vast range of goods."

"He refuses to work effectively with officials from other States in formulating anti-inflationary policies."

"There is a limit to what any Government can do to check prices in a world-wide inflationary situation, but Mr. Bjelke-Petersen does nothing."

Brisbane

16 November 1974