

1/12/74

QUEENSLAND CAMPAIGN
FINAL STATEMENT

BY THE PRIME MINISTER

TWO YEARS AGO TOMORROW, AUSTRALIANS ELECTED A FEDERAL LABOR GOVERNMENT. TWO YEARS AGO, AUSTRALIANS EMBARKED ON A GREAT NEW COURSE OF REFORM AND RENEWAL WHICH HAS BROUGHT HIGHER LIVING STANDARDS AND WIDER OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR PEOPLE. FOR TWO YEARS, QUEENSLANDERS HAVE BENEFITED FROM OUR PROGRAMS FOR BETTER EDUCATION, BETTER ROADS AND HEALTH SERVICES, BETTER CITIES AND BETTER CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

AT THE SAME TIME, QUEENSLANDERS HAVE BEEN MISSING OUT ON THE FULL FRUITS OF LABOR'S POLICIES. THEY HAVE BEEN DEPRIVED OF ADVANTAGES WHICH ALL OTHER AUSTRALIANS HAVE RECEIVED. THEY HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO AN INCESSANT BARRAGE OF MISREPRESENTATION ABOUT MY GOVERNMENT AND ITS POLICIES.

I CAME HERE TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT. I BELIEVE I HAVE SUCCEEDED. I HAVE ASKED QUEENSLANDERS TO FACE THE FACTS ABOUT THE BJELKE-PETERSEN GOVERNMENT AND DECIDE WHETHER THEY CAN AFFORD TO WASTE ANOTHER THREE YEARS FALLING BEHIND THE REST OF AUSTRALIA.

THE BJELKE-PETERSEN GOVERNMENT IS GUILTY ON FOUR COUNTS.

FIRST, BY FAILING TO CO-OPERATE WITH OUR INITIATIVES, IT HAS HELD BACK THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE AND DEPRIVED QUEENSLANDERS AND THEIR FAMILIES OF \$50 MILLION IN FUNDS FOR ESSENTIAL PROJECTS.

FOR REASONS OF SHEER DOGMA AND IDEOLOGY, IT HAS REJECTED OUR OFFER TO MAKE TOWNSVILLE A BIGGER AND MORE PROSPEROUS CITY. IT HAS REJECTED OUR OFFER OF FEDERAL FUNDS TO STABILISE LAND PRICES FOR THE HOME BUYER. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CO-OPERATE WITH EVERY LIBERAL PREMIER IN SIMILAR PLANS IN OTHER STATES. ONLY MR. BJELKE-PETERSEN, BLINDED BY HIS OBSESSIONS, BLINKERED BY HIS PATHOLOGICAL HATRED OF AN ELECTED LABOR GOVERNMENT, REFUSES TO PLAY BALL.

SECONDLY, THE QUEENSLAND STATE GOVERNMENT HAS REFUSED TO MAKE PROPER USE OF THE FUNDS WE HAVE MADE AVAILABLE FOR EDUCATION, HOUSING AND OTHER PRUPOSES. QUEENSLAND HAS BEEN DRAGGING THE CHAIN WHILE EVERY OTHER STATE HAS MOVED AHEAD. IN OUR LAST BUDGET WE GAVE THE STATES A VIRTUAL BLANK CHEQUE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF WELFARE HOUSING. YET QUEENSLAND IS BUILDING FEWER HOUSING COMMISSION HOMES THAN ANY OTHER STATE. THEY ARE BUILDING FEWER THAN THE LAST QUEENSLAND LABOR GOVERNMENT IN ITS LAST YEAR OF OFFICE IN 1956-57. WE HAVE GIVEN RECORD AMOUNTS FOR EDUCATION. YET QUEENSLAND HAS SPENT ONLY 18% OF THE CAPITAL FUNDS WE HAVE MADE AVAILABLE FOR EDUCATION IN 1973 AND 1974.

THIRDLY, THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT HAS WANTONLY OBSTRUCTED OUR EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH THE GREAT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACING AUSTRALIA AND ALL OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES. PRICES IN QUEENSLAND HAVE RISEN FASTER IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS THAN ANYWHERE ELSE IN AUSTRALIA.

UNEMPLOYMENT HAS RISEN FASTER IN QUEENSLAND THAN IN ANY OTHER STATE. QUEENSLANDERS MUST ASK THEMSELVES WHY THIS IS SO. LAST YEAR MR. BJELKE-PETERSEN REFUSED TO JOIN ME AND THE OTHER PREMIERS AT A DINNER/^{TO}DISCUSS THE USE OF POWERS OVER PRICES. HE CAMPAIGNED AGAINST OUR EFFORTS TO SECURE THESE POWERS FOR THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT. HE REFUSES TO USE THE UNDOUBTED POWERS HIS GOVERNMENT HAS TO CONTROL PRICES WHERE NECESSARY. HE REFUSES TO MAKE USE OF FUNDS FROM MY GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD GIVE A BOOST TO MANY QUEENSLAND INDUSTRIES AND CREATE MORE JOBS.

FOURTHLY, MR. BJELKE-PETERSEN INSULTS THE INTELLIGENCE OF THE QUEENSLAND PEOPLE BY HIS OBSESSION WITH ISSUES THAT ARE AT BEST TRIVIAL AND AT WORST FIGMENTS OF HIS OWN FEVERED IMAGINATION. HE RAVES ABOUT CENTRALISM, HE RANTS ABOUT STATE RIGHTS, HE SEETHES ABOUT SOCIALISM, HE IS MAUDLIN ABOUT THE MONARCHY, HE IS PREOCCUPIED WITH THE PRIVY COUNCIL. IT IS A PITY HE DOES NOT BRING HIS UNDOUBTED ENERGIES TO BEAR ON THE REAL NEEDS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE - THE DOWN-TO-EARTH ISSUES OF HOUSING, HEALTH, WAGES, EDUCATION, ROADS - THE TRUE ISSUES IN THIS ELECTION WHICH PERC TUCKER AND THE LABOR TEAM HAVE BROUGHT CONSTANTLY BEFORE THE PEOPLE. HE HAS REFUSED TO TALK, HE HAS REFUSED TO LISTEN, HE HAS REFUSED EVEN TO ANSWER LETTERS.

IN ITS TWO YEARS IN OFFICE THE FEDERAL LABOR GOVERNMENT HAS DONE GREAT THINGS FOR THIS STATE. WE HAVE BEEN OVERWHELMINGLY GENEROUS IN OUR FINANCIAL PAYMENTS. OUR POLICIES HAVE TREBLED THE RETURNS TO QUEENSLAND FROM ITS EXPORTS OF COAL. WE HAVE OPENED UP NEW MARKETS FOR QUEENSLAND SUGAR. WE HAVE EMBARKED ON OUR PLANS FOR A NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM LINKING ALL THE MAJOR CITIES AS FAR AS CAIRNS WITH SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE. WE ARE ESTABLISHING A PLAGUE LOCUST COMMISSION WHOSE TASK WILL BE TO ELIMINATE THIS SCOURGE ONCE AND FOR ALL. IN OUR FLOOD RELIEF PROGRAMS WE HAVE MADE THE LARGEST OUTLAYS EVER GRANTED FOR THE RELIEF OF A NATURAL DISASTER. FOR THE FIRST TIME WE ARE MAKING DIRECT FEDERAL GRANTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES.- NEARLY \$9 MILLION TO QUEENSLAND ALONE. WE ARE SPENDING \$24 MILLION ON BEEF ROADS IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS. WE ARE PROTECTING THE GREAT BARRIER REEF FROM OIL DRILLING. WE ARE UPGRADING YOUR URBAN PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND ATTACKING THE SHORTCOMINGS IN YOUR SCHOOLS AND HOSPITAL SERVICES.

THE BJELKE-PETERSEN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN KEPT IN OFFICE BY A FLAGRANT ELECTORAL GERRYMANDER WHICH DISCRIMINATES AS MUCH AGAINST PROVINCIAL CITIES SUCH AS TOWNSVILLE AND MOUNT ISA AS IT DOES AGAINST BRISBANE. IN MANY STATE ELECTORATES IN QUEENSLAND THERE ARE TWICE AS MANY VOTERS AS THERE ARE IN OTHER ELECTORATES. SOME PEOPLE'S VOTES ARE WORTH HALF AS MUCH AS OTHER PEOPLE'S VOTES. ALL AUSTRALIANS, ALL DEMOCRATS, WILL CONDEMN THIS SYSTEM FOR ITS AFFRONT TO NATURAL JUSTICE AND THE VIOLENCE IT DOES TO OUR COUNTRY'S REPUTATION. QUEENSLANDERS MUST ASK THEMSELVES WHETHER THEY CAN ALLOW SUCH A SYSTEM TO DEPRIVE THEM OF REAL MATERIAL GAINS AND SET BACK THE PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR STATE.

I DO NOT CLAIM THAT WE HAVE THE ANSWERS TO EVERY PROBLEM. I DO CLAIM THAT WE HAVE MORE CHANCE OF SOLVING PROBLEMS IF WE WORK TOGETHER, IF WE PREFER CO-OPERATION TO CONFLICT. QUEENSLAND CANNOT LIVE IN ISOLATION. SHE CANNOT PROSPER IF SHE REMAINS AT ODDS WITH THE REST OF AUSTRALIA. SHE CANNOT FULFIL HER UNDOUBTED DESTINY - HER LIMITLESS PROMISE - IF SHE REMAINS THE ODD STATE OUT.

1 NOVEMBER 1974