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PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH AT OPENING OF ST. FRANCIS
XAVIER PRIMARY SCHOOL, LURNEA, N.S.W. ON 13 JULY 1975.

AFTER THE TURMOIL OF CANBERRA, IT IS CURIOUSLY REFRESHING TO COME HOME TO MY OWN ELECTORATE, TO WERRIWA, FOR FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT AND SUNDAY AFTERNOON. I HAVE BEEN IN EXCELLENT COMPANY ALL WEEKEND, AS SOME OF YOU MAY KNOW.

LAST NIGHT WAS THE ALL SAINTS PARISH BALL AND I HAD THE PLEASURE OF SEEING HIS LORDSHIP BISHOP CREMIN AGAIN. WE'D LAST MET AT THE BLESSING AND OPENING OF ST. BEDE'S HOME AT HURSTVILLE, WHERE HE TOLD A VERY LONG AND COMPLICATED JOKE WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY GOT RECORDED IN MY WIFE'S MAGAZINE COLUMN, IN WOMAN'S DAY. THAT'S MORE THAN MY JOKES DO.

TODAY, OF COURSE, HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL FREEMAN IS HERE TO GIVE HIS BLESSING TO THE OPENING OF YET ANOTHER CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL. WE LAST MET ON THE OCCASION OF THE BLESSING AND OPENING OF ST. JOSEPH'S, MOOREBANK. I REMEMBER WE TRADED OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE TWO THOMAS MOORES - THE ONE WHO ENDOWED A PROTESTANT THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE IN SYDNEY AND AFTER WHOM MOOREBANK IS NAMED, AND THE OTHER GREAT ENGLISHMAN, ST. THOMAS MOORE, AFTER WHOM SO MANY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN THIS COUNTRY ARE NAMED.

OPENING DAYS ARE ALWAYS A SOURCE OF IMMENSE SATISFACTION TO THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN PLANNING AND FUNDRAISING TO GET A PARTICULAR PROJECT, LITERALLY, "OFF THE GROUND". TODAY IS NO EXCEPTION: I AM ALWAYS DELIGHTED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH CEREMONIES, PARTICULARLY WHEN, IN THE CASE OF SCHOOLS, IT MEANS THAT A NEW SCHOOL HAS BEEN CREATED IN A RAPIDLY DEVELOPING OUTER SUBURBAN AREA, WITH A CLEAR NEED FOR EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES TO CATER FOR THE HIGH PROPORTION OF SCHOOL-AGE AND YOUNGER CHILDREN. IT HAS BEEN THE CONSISTENT BELIEF OF THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR GOVERNMENT THAT ALL CHILDREN ARE ENTITLED TO EVERY POSSIBLE CHANCE OF A GOOD EDUCATION, NO MATTER WHERE THEY LIVE IN AUSTRALIA. I BELIEVE THAT WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR EDUCATION IN THIS COUNTRY WILL BE REMEMBERED WITH GRATITUDE IN YEARS TO COME.

TIME WAS, AND NOT EVEN TWENTY YEARS AGO, WHEN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN QUITE UNTHINKABLE FOR A PERSON OF MY POLITICS TO BE ASKED TO DECLARE OPEN A CATHOLIC SCHOOL. AND YET, HERE WE ARE, CARDINAL FREEMAN AND I, AT OUR SECOND CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL OPENING IN THIS WERRIWA ELECTORATE IN THREE MONTHS. IT IS JUST THREE MONTHS TO THE DAY - APRIL 13 - THAT ST. JOSEPH'S WAS OPENED. AND NOW ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S.

BOTH THESE NEW CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS HAVE ATTRACTED IDENTICAL AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT GRANTS OF \$140,000 UNDER THE CAPITAL AID FOR SCHOOLS PROGRAM 1973-74. THEY CAN BE SEEN AS PART OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S VASTLY INCREASED EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION OF ALL KINDS AND AT ALL LEVELS.

THREE YEARS AGO, THE AMOUNT OF MONEY BEING SPENT BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ON CATHOLIC EDUCATION THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA WAS BARELY \$30 MILLION. THIS YEAR IT IS THREE AND A HALF TIMES AS MUCH. IT IS OVER \$100 MILLION. NOW THAT IS VERY MUCH MORE THAN WOULD BE REQUIRED BY AN INCREASE IN ENROLMENT OR AN INCREASE IN INFLATION IN THAT PERIOD.

THE PRINCIPLE THAT WE HAVE ADHERED TO THROUGHOUT, AS I SAID BEFORE, IS THAT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR CHILDREN WHEREVER THEY LIVE, WHATEVER THEIR PARENT'S MEANS, WHATEVER THEIR PARENTS' RELIGIONS, WHATEVER THEIR PARENTS' OCCUPATION - TO HAVE AS GOOD AN EDUCATION AS THIS COUNTRY CAN PROVIDE.

AND THE BASIS UPON WHICH WE MAKE THAT PROVISION IS PERFECTLY OPEN; IT'S UNDER AN ACT OF PARLIAMENT. IT IS ADMINISTERED BY A COMMISSION WHOSE MEMBERSHIP IS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DAY. I HAVE NEVER HEARD ANY CRITICISM OF THE PEOPLE, MEN AND WOMEN, BOTH LAY AND RELIGIOUS, WHO HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO THAT COMMISSION. IT IS A VERY DILIGENT COMMISSION, WITH A VERY SERIOUS JOB TO DO. ITS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 1974 AND 1975 HAVE TRANSFORMED EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA : AND I WOULD BE ABLE TO SAY THAT IF I WENT TO ANY STATE SCHOOL, IF I WENT TO ANY CATHOLIC SCHOOL, OR IF I WENT TO ANY NON-GOVERNMENT, NON-CATHOLIC SCHOOL, ANYWHERE IN AUSTRALIA.

THREE YEARS AGO, HAD I CLAIMED THAT I WOULD BE ABLE TO SAY THAT IN THE FUTURE, THERE MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN A VERY GREAT NUMBER OF DOUBTING THOMASES AMONG YOU. WHAT I SAID MIGHT HAVE BEEN RECEIVED WITH SCEPTICISM, IF NOT DISBELIEF.

I BELIEVE THAT THIS AUDIENCE - SO MUCH INVOLVED IN THE PROFESSION OF TEACHING, SO MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION, AND SO MUCH AWARE OF THE NEEDS OF THE YOUNG POPULATION IN OUR BURGEONING OUTER SUBURBS - KNOWS HOW MUCH WE HAVE TRIED TO DO IN THE EDUCATIONAL SPHERE, AND HOW REAL ARE OUR INTENTIONS TO CONTINUE OUR POLICIES IN THIS AREA.

I HAVE VERY GREAT PLEASURE IN DECLARING OPEN
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL.

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AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON CATHOLIC EDUCATION

IN WERRIWA

SACRED HEART, CABRAMATTA

GENERAL BUILDING GRANT	-	\$200,000	ALLOCATED
RECURRENT GRANT 1974	-	\$ 45,564	
LIBRARY BOOK GRANT	-	\$ 3,937	
CAPITAL GRANT (DISADVANTAGED)	-	\$ 6,000	
RECURRENT GRANT (DISADVANTAGED)	-	\$ 5,770	(1974)
RECURRENT GRANT (DISADVANTAGED)	-	\$ 11,948	(APPROVED TO APRIL 1975)

ST. THERESA'S, SADLIER-MILLEN

RECURRENT GRANT 1974	-	\$ 30,770	
LIBRARY BOOK GRANT	-	\$ 1,697	
CAPITAL GRANT (DISADVANTAGED)	-	\$ 2,000	
RECURRENT GRANT (DISADVANTAGED)	-	\$ 7,520	(1974)
RECURRENT GRANT (DISADVANTAGED)	-	\$ 12,242	(APPROVED TO APRIL 1975)

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL, MT. PRITCHARD

RECURRENT GRANT 1974	-	\$ 40,446	
LIBRARY BOOK GRANT	-	\$ 3,500	
CAPITAL GRANT (DISADVANTAGED)	-	\$ 20,000	
RECURRENT GRANT (DISADVANTAGED)	-	\$ 3,000	(1974)
RECURRENT GRANT (DISADVANTAGED)	-	\$ 9,120	

A SPECIAL POINT OF INTEREST IS THE EXPENDITURE OF \$9,000 (INCLUDED WITHIN THE ABOVE FIGURES) ON A REMEDIAL READING TEACHER BEING SHARED BY THE THREE SCHOOLS. ALL THREE HAVE A HIGH PROPORTION OF PUPILS WITH SEVERE READING DIFFICULTIES.

HIGH SCHOOLS

PATRICIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL, LIVERPOOL

RECURRENT GRANT 1974	-	\$104,335
1ST PAYMENT 1975	-	\$ 88,741
LIBRARY BOOK GRANT	-	\$ 2,625

ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL, LIVERPOOL

RECURRENT GRANT 1974	-	\$ 88,552
1ST PAYMENT 1975	-	\$ 74,880

GRANTS TO NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

YEAR	AUSTRALIA	INCREASE	N.S.W.
1970/71	\$ 32,508,000	-	\$12,136,000
1971/72	\$ 36,236,000	11.4%	\$13,234,000
1972/73	\$ 47,755,000	31.7%	\$17,277,000
1973/74	\$ 70,163,000	46.9%	\$24,564,000
1974/75 (ESTIMATE)	\$127,533,000	81.7%	\$45,206,000

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CHILDHOOD SERVICES PROGRAM
- ELECTORATE OF WERRIWA

<u>Location</u>	<u>1973/74</u> (1/1/74 to 30/6/74)	<u>1974/75</u> (1/7/74 to 31/3/75)	
	\$	\$	
<u>Contribution to salary costs, staff in pre-school centres.</u>			
Holsworthy Pre-School, Holsworthy	2,747	4,572	
Macquarie Village Pre-School, Holsworthy	2,031	3,312	
Ingleburn Pre-School Kindergarten	1,656	4,622	
Rambi Kindergarten, Ingleburn	993	1,563	
Green Valley Pre-School, Miller	6,170	12,966	
Liverpool Pre-School Centre, Liverpool	4,755	7,875	
Ashcroft Pre-School Kindergarten	2,674	4,668	
<u>2. Contribution to salary costs, staff in child care centres.</u>			
	<u>1972/73</u>	<u>1973/74</u>	<u>1974/75</u>
Ingleburn Child Care Centre, (Methodist Church)	365	4,424	3,955
Ashcroft Child Care Centre, (Methodist Church)		3,639	4,329
<u>3. Before and After School Program (Approved 5/3/75 under Childhood Services Program)</u>			
Heckenberg Primary School - equipment costs	2,370		
<u>4. Child Care Centres - Capital Cost (Approved under Child Care Act)</u>			
Child Care Centre for 40 children aged 3-5 years - Ingleburn (Methodist Church), completed & operational	57,000		
Child Care Centre for 53 children aged 0-5 years - Liverpool (Lutheran Church)- (approval in principle - awaiting preparation of building plans)	200,000		
Child Care Centre for 40 children aged 3-5 years - Macquarie Fields (Salvation Army, plans being prepared).	180,000		
<u>5. N.S.W. Education Dept.</u>			
<u>Pre-School Centres - Capital Cost, Approved in 1973/74 Interim Pre-School & Child Care Services Program.</u>			

double Unit Pre-School (conversion) - Busby West Public School	38,555
Single Unit Pre-School (conversion) - Sadleir Public School	46,695
Single Unit Pre-School (conversion) - Canley Heights Public School	36,960
Single Unit Pre-School (conversion) - Lurnea Public School	44,435

6. A number of other proposals are now being considered.