

PRIME MINISTER: ...commitment that we have, the Labor Government said that it would create a fully elected Legislative Assembly: it's done that. It said that it would produce votes for Territorians in the Senate: it's done that. We have done in our three years more for the Constitutional and political development of the Territory than had happened in the previous three-quarters of a century. So obviously we are going to get on with it. But one can't give a timetable, all that I can point out to you is that we have carried out these other promises as promptly as was possible. There was a very great deal of obstruction as regards the fully elected Legislative Assembly. And still more as regards representation in the Senate. But we overcame it, we carried out the promise, we will carry out this other promise.

QUESTION: Mr Whitlam on the subject of the half Senate election now, you are hopeful that you'll get two Labor Senators in there. What happens if you don't get two Labor Senators in there? How will this help the balance of power?

PRIME MINISTER: Oh well, it would be very much the same as it is now. See, in ordinary circumstances one would expect that the Government and the Opposition, whichever Parties they are, would get one of the Senators from the Northern Territory, and one of the Senators from the Australian Capital Territory. I believe, however, that in the present circumstances there are good prospects of the Labor Senate, candidates both getting up. That would require two-thirds of the votes. And why I say that I believe there are good prospects of this, is because in the Northern Territory more than any part of Australia there is damage to the people's welfare and the general economy of the region through the Senate's going on strike. That is, the Senate is holding up \$439 million being provided for the Territory in this Budget. And the other reason why I believe that we will poll so well in the Senate is that the Liberal Senators and the Country Party Senators, all of them, without exception, voted against the Northern Territory getting Senators. And it was a Country Party Premier, Mr Bjelke-Petersen, who challenged the Bill when it got through, in the High Court. So wherever it's been - in the Joint Sitting for instance, all the Country Party and Liberal members, in the Senate and in the House of Representatives, from every State, voted against the Territory having Senators. Now I think people will be outraged by the Senate's denial of Budget Moneys for the Territory and will be outraged by the Liberal and Country Parties' resistance to the Territory having Senators. That ought to be to the advantage of the Labor Party, which wants to get the Budget through, which has wanted the Territory to have Senators.

QUESTION: Could we just isolate the Territory for one second. We have a Legislative Assembly which is fully elected but there is not one Labor member on that Assembly. Do you see this as an anti-Labor indication?

PRIME MINISTER: I believe that was an utterly exceptional circumstance. I would have no doubt that at the next time there is an election for the Legislative Assembly we'll do very much better; we might win. Because the Country Party members of the Legislative Assembly, I think one much acknowledge, are a pretty indifferent bunch. They've not been impressive.

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the whole week and they didn't call him. And they didn't call him because they knew that they'd get no change out of him. That is there was nothing to embarrass me. Now I say Mr Fraser's been found out because people now see that he is an impetuous, as impatient, as greedy, as improper as Mr Snedden. And Mr Fraser has been led astray by his Country Party confederates and by the newspaper proprietors. Now you'll never change the minds of these Country Party confederates. They will, that tail will wag the Liberal dog as long as the Liberal dog doesn't have a better head than Mr Snedden or Mr Fraser. The newspaper proprietors, with one exception, have changed their minds. The Country Party will never change its mind and the other people whose advice Mr Fraser takes have changed theirs. He's left high and dry. He's been found out. He did wrong. And people see it. And he will go the way that Snedden went. Sad but true.

QUESTION: Sir, back to the south road, considering that you've made a promise or given a timetable, the last time that you were approached on the topic, would you care to do that again, to say that providing you were staying in power, how long would it take for the south road to be sealed?

PRIME MINISTER: This will come up in the triennial roads legislation which we were hoping to bring in before the end of this year.

QUESTION: Sir, we had Mr Anthony and Country Party Leaders here this week, last week sorry, and you're here this week; Mr Bjelke-Petersen is coming next week. Does this mean that there is already a pre-Senate campaign on in the Territory?

PRIME MINISTER: I'm coming here because I've had an engagement for some months in Port Augusta tomorrow morning, Sunday the 2nd of November. And in view of the present circumstances I thought that instead of getting to Port Augusta on Saturday night directly from Canberra or Sydney, I'd spend the day at Alice Springs on the way. After all I was in Alice Springs about three months ago. I've been to Alice Springs and the Territory more often than any Leader of the Liberal Party or the Country Party, Federal or State. You might think that this is an unfair comparison because I'm now doing over the fifth successive Federal Liberal Leader. But during the time that Holt was Prime Minister and then Gorton, and then McMahon and during the time that Snedden was Liberal Leader, during the time that Fraser has been Liberal Leader, in every case I've been more often to the Territory than any of them.
