

# PRIME MINISTER

75/1

PRESS STATEMENT

NOVEMBER 14, 1975

Mr Whitlam's assertion that I should have resigned on the basis of Tuesdays No Confidence Motion is nonsense. The present situation arose because for the first time in nearly 200 years a Prime Minister refused to resign when Parliament cut off his money.

Mr Whitlam refused to seek an election and refused to give the people of Australia the vote which was needed to resolve the situation. If he had done this he would have faced the electors as Prime Minister.

Knowing quite well the Liberal and National Country Parties did not have a majority in the House of Representatives, I recommended a double dissolution to the Governor General immediately the Appropriation Bills had received the royal assent.

That recommendation was in the most favourable terms possible to the Labor Party. The 21 bills in a double dissolution position were cited in the petition dissolving Parliament, thus enabling them to be put to a joint sitting of the two chambers of Parliament after December 13 if the new Government chooses to use that device.

We certainly would not do so. The bills contain arbitrary and dictatorial powers.

# PRIME MINISTER

-2-

The dissolution thus is in the fairest possible form. The course was open to Mr Whitlam

It was a proper course of action which he refused.

The great difference between Mr Whitlam and myself was in recognising that neither of us had command of Parliament. Mr Whitlam refused to understand that and to seek an election. I recommended an election forthwith, so that the voters could decide this issue.