



75/ II

PRIME MINISTER.

CANBERRA.

FOR PRESS

17 NOVEMBER 1975

ADDRESS TO THE VICTORIAN STATE COUNCIL

THE FIGHT IS JUST BEGINNING

OVER THE NEXT FOUR WEEKS THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIA AND OUR WAY OF LIFE WILL BE DECIDED. THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIA IS IN OUR HANDS. EVERYONE WHO CARES FOR CONSTITUTIONAL PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT, HONEST AND DECENT GOVERNMENT, RESPONSIBLE AND COMMONSENSE GOVERNMENT, MUST STAND UP AND BE COUNTED.

EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN THE RIGHT OF ALL AUSTRALIANS TO DIGNITY AND SELF-RESPECT, EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN OUR MESSAGE OF FREEDOM AND CONCERN FOR THE INDIVIDUAL, NOW HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO FIGHT FOR THAT BELIEF. OVER THE NEXT FOUR WEEKS WE IN THE LIBERAL PARTY MUST WORK AS WE HAVE NEVER WORKED BEFORE TO TAKE OUR MESSAGE TO THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE. IT IS A MESSAGE OF WHICH WE CAN BE PROUD.

THE LAST MONTH HAS BEEN A TRYING AND TESTING TIME. MANY PEOPLE HAVE NOT UNDERSTOOD THE REASONS FOR THE IMMENSELY DIFFICULT DECISION WE TOOK TO DENY SUPPLY.

MANY PEOPLE SINCERELY DISAGREED WITH THAT DECISION. THIS WAS INEVITABLE, SUCH A DECISION CAN NEVER BE EASY. THERE WILL ALWAYS BE HONEST DIFFERENCES OF OPINION. THOSE OF US ON WHOM THE RESPONSIBILITY FELL ARE CONVINCED THAT NO HONOURABLE ALTERNATIVE WAS OPEN TO US.

THE LABOR PARTY HAD PROVIDED AUSTRALIA WITH THE WORST, MOST INCOMPETENT AND DAMAGING GOVERNMENT IN OUR ENTIRE HISTORY.

- * WE BELIEVED THAT THE LABOR PARTY HAD SERIOUSLY UNDER-ESTIMATED THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS IT HAD CAUSED AND WHICH NOW LOOMS OVER US.
- * THE WAY OF LIFE OF THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE WAS BEING DESTROYED BEFORE OUR EYES, AND THE LIVELIHOOD OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE DESTROYED WITHOUT ANY REASON WHATEVER.
- * WE SAW A GOVERNMENT, A PRIME MINISTER, GRASPING AFTER MORE AND MORE POWER, DESTROYING THE STATES, AND, AS IN THE LOANS AFFAIR, UNDERMINING THE CONSTITUTION ITSELF.
- * THROUGH ALL THIS OUR SENATORS WERE STEMMING THE TIDE OF SOME OF THE MOST DICTATORIAL LEGISLATION EVER INTRODUCED INTO THE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT.

THIS LEGISLATION WOULD HAVE ESTABLISHED A GIANT GOVERNMENT PURCHASING MONOPOLY WHICH COULD FORCE LABOR'S POLICIES ON ANY BUSINESS WHICH DEALS WITH THE GOVERNMENT; A POWERFUL NATIONAL POLICE FORCE WHICH COULD POSE A SERIOUS THREAT TO CIVIL LIBERTIES; AN ELECTORAL BILL WHICH MAY ALLOW UNION CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LABOR PARTY TO BE EXCLUDED FROM ELECTORAL EXPENDITURE, AND WHICH IMPOSES FINES OF UP TO \$2 MILLION ON A PARTY WHICH OVERSPENDS; A BROADCASTING AND TV BILL WHICH GIVES THE AUTHORITY POWER TO DETERMINE THE NATURE AND CONTENT OF PROGRAMMES. THESE BILLS, AND OTHERS LIKE THEM, ARE A THREAT TO AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY. THEY ARE INCLUDED IN THE DOUBLE DISSOLUTION PROCLAMATION. IF LABOR WINS ON DECEMBER 13 THEY WILL SOON BE LAW IN AUSTRALIA.

ON TOP OF ALL THESE, STANDARDS OF OUR PUBLIC LIFE WERE BEING DEGRADED BEYOND BELIEF BY SCANDAL AFTER SCANDAL. WHEN THE SECOND MAN WHO HAD ACTED AS PRIME MINISTER WAS SACKED FOR DECEIVING THE PARLIAMENT WE KNEW THAT WE COULD NOT, IN CONSCIENCE, FAIL TO EXERCISE THE RIGHT CONFERRED ON US BY THE CONSTITUTION.

Labour Government

Dictatorial Labour Legislation

HOWEVER DIFFICULT THE ROAD WE HAD TO TRAVEL OUR DUTY TO AUSTRALIA AND OUR OWN CONSCIENCES REQUIRED US TO ACT. WE HAVE NOW SEEN THE INEVITABLE CONCLUSION. MR. WHITLAM SACKED HIS FORMER FRIENDS ONE BY ONE. NOW ONE OF HIS FORMER FRIENDS HAS SACKED HIM. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OUR HISTORY WE HAVE HAD A PRIME MINISTER SACKED FOR BREAKING THE CONSTITUTION.

9th Dec 1975
THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S DECISION HAS VINDICATED OUR STAND. WHAT A RECORD - TWO ACTING PRIME MINISTERS DISMISSED FOR DECEIVING THE PARLIAMENT. ONE PRIME MINISTER DISMISSED FOR BREAKING THE CONSTITUTION. THE DISMISSED PRIME MINISTER'S BEHAVIOUR AND STATEMENTS SINCE LAST TUESDAY HAVE BEEN A FURTHER CONFIRMATION OF WHY AUSTRALIA DESPERATELY NEEDS A RETURN TO RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

NOW WE HAVE A LIBERAL AND NATIONAL COUNTRY PARTY GOVERNMENT ONCE MORE. ON TAKING OFFICE WE TOOK IMMEDIATE STEPS TO DISCOVER ACCURATELY THE TRUE STATE OF THE AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY. WE HAVE RECEIVED PUBLIC SERVICE ADVICE ON THIS MATTER WHICH HAS CONFIRMED OUR WORST FEARS. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE HAVE BEEN GROSSLY MISLED FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. WE KNOW NOW THAT THE LABOR PARTY'S BUDGET STRATEGY WAS IN TATTERS - THAT IT WAS A BUDGET BASED ON ASSUMPTIONS WHICH ARE NOW KNOWN TO BE COMPLETELY FALLACIOUS. TOMORROW NIGHT I WILL BE MAKING A BROADCAST TO THE NATION IN WHICH I PROPOSE TO DETAIL THESE CHARGES. *Economy*

OUR PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO REVIVE THE BASIC HEALTH AND STRENGTH OF THE AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY SO THAT AUSTRALIANS CAN ONCE AGAIN LOOK AHEAD WITH CONFIDENCE AND SECURITY - CONFIDENCE IN THEMSELVES AND IN THEIR COUNTRY.

WE WILL BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE THIS ONLY WITH THE SUPPORT OF ALL SECTIONS OF THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE.

THE NEXT THREE YEARS WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE. THERE IS NO EASY WAY BACK TO PROSPERITY. COMMONSENSE AND

RESPONSIBILITY ON THE PART OF ALL SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY WILL BE NEEDED. IT WILL BE OUR OBJECTIVE TO ESTABLISH AND ENCOURAGE THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE RELATIONS WITH THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AND BETWEEN THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AND BUSINESS.

IT IS OBVIOUS NOW IN A WAY THAT IT HAS NEVER BEEN BEFORE THAT THERE IS A COMMON INTEREST AMONG ALL AUSTRALIANS - EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS - IN PROFITABLE AND EFFICIENT ENTERPRISES. PROFITS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR JOBS. AUSTRALIA IS NOW SUFFERING FROM THE HIGHEST UNEMPLOYMENT SINCE THE DEPRESSION BECAUSE OF LABOR'S DELIBERATE POLICY OF SQUEEZING PROFITS. 200,000 SCHOOL LEAVERS WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY FINDING WORK BECAUSE THE CREATION OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES HAS BEEN UTTERLY NEGLECTED. PROFITS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR PROSPERITY AND FOR THE RESOURCES NEEDED TO HELP THE DISADVANTAGED. DESPITE ALL THE TALK THE CONDITION OF THE NEEDY HAS ACTUALLY DETERIORATED IN THE LAST YEAR. PROFITS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR PROSPERITY.

WE WILL GIVE RAPID AND PRACTICAL EFFECT TO OUR COMMITMENT TO DIRECTLY REVIVE PRIVATE BUSINESS - ESPECIALLY SMALL BUSINESS. THE DESTRUCTIVE IMPACT OF INFLATION AND EXCESSIVE TAXES ON BUSINESS MUST BE BROUGHT TO A STOP. IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED TO START JOB OPPORTUNITIES EXPANDING AGAIN. THE STIFLING, SUPPLOCATING GROWTH OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING MUST BE STOPPED, INCENTIVE RESTORED, AND THE CONSTRUCTIVE ENERGIES OF INFLATION ON INCOMES BY READJUSTING TAX SCALES AS NECESSARY.

WE WILL UNDERTAKE OUR PROGRAMME TO INTRODUCE PERSONAL TAX INDEXATION AS A PRIORITY MEASURE FOLLOWING THE ELECTION, AS RAPIDLY AS CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT. THIS WILL BE A MAJOR GUARANTEE OUR OUR COMMITMENT TO REDUCING THE PERSONAL TAX BURDEN WHICH HAS BEEN A MAJOR FORCE BEHIND INFLATION.

Employment - Small business

tax Indexation

THIS IS NOT THE TIME OR THE PLACE FOR A POLICY SPEECH BUT THERE SHOULD BE NO DOUBT ABOUT OUR DETERMINATION TO RESTRAIN THE MONSTROUS GROWTH OF GOVERNMENT LABOR HAS ENCOURAGED. NOT MERELY WILL THE GROWTH OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING BE RESTRAINED BY PERSONAL INCOME TAX INDEXATION BUT THE CONSIDERATION OF ALL SECTIONS OF THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE WILL BE ENCOURAGED. WE WILL INTRODUCE AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE THE STOCK VALUATION AND DEPRECIATION RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MATHEWS REPORT. - THIS WILL BE MAJOR PART OF OUR THREE YEAR PROGRAMME TO REVIVE THE ECONOMY. WE WILL GET AUSTRALIA MOVING AHEAD.

UNDOUBTEDLY SOME DIFFICULT DECISIONS WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN. RESTRAINT ON THE PART OF GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE EASY OR PAINLESS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT GOVERNMENT CAN ASK FOR RESTRAINT BY OTHER SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY IF IT IS NOT PREPARED TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT ITSELF. LABOR'S EXCESSIVE SPENDING HAS LEFT LESS AND LESS MONEY FOR FAMILIES TO SPEND AS THEY SEE THEIR NEEDS, FOR BUSINESSES TO SPEND TO CREATE JOBS.

*Restraint
in spending*

FOR THREE YEARS WE HAVE HAD A GOVERNMENT WHICH BELIEVES IN MAKING PEOPLE MORE AND MORE DEPENDENT ON WHAT POLITICIANS AND CIVIL SERVANTS CHOOSE TO GIVE THEM.

PEOPLE HAVE HAD LESS AND LESS CONTROL OVER THEIR OWN INCOMES BECAUSE THE LABOR PARTY HAS DECIDED TO SPEND MORE AND MORE OF WHAT THEY EARN. IF THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE CHOOSE A LIBERAL-NCP GOVERNMENT ON DECEMBER 13 THIS WILL END.

WE WILL THEN BE ABLE TO GIVE EFFECT TO OUR PHILOSOPHY THAT PEOPLE MUST HAVE FREEDOM TO CONTROL THE MAJOR DECISIONS OF THEIR OWN LIVES - NOT HAVE THESE DICTATED BY POLITICIANS AND CIVIL SERVANTS. THE SELF-RESPECT AND SELF-FULFILMENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL AUSTRALIAN WILL BE OUR PRIME CONCERN.

- 6 -

SIR ROBERT MENZIES HAS WRITTEN THAT OPPOSITION FOR A POLITICAL PARTY PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO RETHINK AND DEVELOP POSITIVE AND PROGRESSIVE POLICIES. I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE POLICIES THE PARTY HAS PRESENTED TO THE PUBLIC OVER THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS FORM THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE AND WIDE-RANGING ATTEMPT TO GIVE EFFECT TO OUR PHILOSOPHY SINCE 1949.

THEY ARE POLICIES WHICH MEET THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE FOR GREATER CONTROL OVER THEIR OWN LIVES.

THEY ARE POLICIES WHICH DEMONSTRATE OUR CONCERN FOR ALL AUSTRALIANS. OUR SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY PROVIDES AN IMAGINATIVE NEW EXPRESSION FOR OUR PHILOSOPHY OF CONCERN FOR THE INDIVIDUAL.

OUR POLICY ON FEDERAL - STATE RELATIONS WILL AT LONG LAST REVERSE THE FLOW OF POWER TO CANBERRA AND GIVE NEW STRENGTH AND INDEPENDENCE TO LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT CLOSEST TO THE PEOPLE.

OUR IMMIGRATION AND ETHNIC AFFAIRS POLICY EXPRESSES OUR FUNDAMENTAL COMMITMENT TO FREEDOM AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF CULTURAL CHOICE.

OUR FOREIGN AND DEFENCE POLICIES ASSERT THE REALISTIC VIEW OF AUSTRALIA'S PLACE IN THE WORLD AND OUR SECURITY WHICH HAS BEEN SO DANGEROUSLY MISSING FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS.

IN THE CAMPAIGN OPENING SPEECH, I WILL BE OUTLINING THE PROGRAMME FOR THE NEXT PARLIAMENT. OVER THE NEXT FOUR WEEKS THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIA WILL BE IN THE BALANCE. WE CAN TAKE SOME PRIDE IN THE FACT THAT THROUGH OUR EFFORTS THE PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE. THE CONCERTED EFFORT BY THE LABOR PARTY TO SUBVERT THE CONSTITUTIONAL AND DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE HAS BEEN DEFEATED. THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE CAN NOW MAKE THEIR DECISION THEIR JUDGEMENT.

Policies

THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE HARD -----ONE OF THE HARDEST WE HAVE EVER FOUGHT. WE WILL WANT ALL THE ACTIVE SUPPORT WE CAN GET.

WE KNOW THE KIND OF PEOPLE WHO ARE RANTING IN THE STREETS ON LABOR'S BEHALF. WE KNOW THAT MANY OF THESE ARE PEOPLE DEDICATED TO THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR DEMOCRATIC WAY OF LIFE.. THEY ARE THE EXTREMIST MILITANT LEADERS WHO HAVE DONE SO MUCH TO UNDERMINE OUR PRODUCTIVITY, DESTROY JOB OPPORTUNITIES, CREATE INFLATION AND THREATEN THE SECURITY OF EVERY AUSTRALIAN.

AUSTRALIA CAN ONLY BE REVIVED BY A GENUINE COMMITMENT TO CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT; A GENUINE COMMITMENT TO THE FREEDOM AND SELF-RESPECT OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND TO A REALISTIC ASSESSMENT OF OUR PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES.

Democracy

ONLY THROUGH YOUR EFFORTS CAN BE PROVIDE THAT COMMITMENT. DEMOCRACY AND THE CONSTITUTION HAVE WON THE DAY. THE LIBERAL PARTY AROUND AUSTRALIA HAS NEVER HAD MORE REASON TO FEEL UNITED. NEVER HAS A MORE IMPORTANT DECISION FACED THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE. ON DECEMBER 13 THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA WILL BE ABLE TO JUDGE THE LABOR PARTY AND TO JUDGE OURSELVES.

AUSTRALIANS WILL BE ABLE TO CHOOSE AT THIS CRITICAL POINT IN OUR HISTORY, BETWEEN TWO ALTERNATIVES --- ALTERNATIVES WHICH HAVE NEVER BEEN SO SHARPLY DRAWN. THE LABOR PARTY ALTERNATIVE INVOLVES AN EVER GROWING CONTROL OVER OUR LIVES BY POLITICIANS AND CIVIL SERVANTS: THE INTRUSION OF POLITICS INTO EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE: THE CORROSION OF RESPECT FOR INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS: A PROVEN INCOMPETENCE TO MANAGE THE NATION'S AFFAIRS. WE OFFER A CHANCE AT LAST TO MOVE TOWARDS A GREATER FREEDOM, A GREATER SELF-RESPECT.

A CONCERN WHICH IS BASED ON A GENUINE PROSPERITY.

PRIME MINISTER,

CANBERRA

- 8 -

THE LIBERAL - NATIONAL COUNTRY PARTY GOVERNMENT WILL REVIVE AUSTRALIA.

WE WILL PROVIDE A GOVERNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY AND INTEGRITY.

WE WILL PROVIDE A GOVERNMENT THAT WILL BE WORTHY OF THE TRUST OF THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE.
