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MR. WHITLAM'S FALSE CLAIMS

PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

FOR PRESS

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THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA SHOULD NOT BE FOOLED BY THE OPTIMISTIC NOTE WHICH MR. WHITLAM ADOPTED IN HIS TELEVISED ADDRESS YESTERDAY.

IN THE PAST WHEN HE HAS SPOKEN OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY IT HAS BEEN FOLLOWED BY MORE INFLATION AND MORE UNEMPLOYMENT.

IN 1972 IN HIS POLICY SPEECH MR. WHITLAM SAID: "LABOR'S FIRST PRIORITY WILL BE TO RESTORE GENUINE FULL EMPLOYMENT - WITHOUT QUALIFICATION, WITHOUT HEDGING".

IN HIS MAY 1974 POLICY SPEECH MR. WHITLAM SAID: "IN AUSTRALIA ALONE THERE IS NO UNEMPLOYMENT; IN AUSTRALIA ALONE UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION DO NOT MARCH SIDE BY SIDE".

WHAT IS THE REALITY TODAY? AFTER THREE YEARS OF LABOR GOVERNMENT AND EIGHTEEN MONTHS AFTER THAT SECOND CLAIM THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED IN AUSTRALIA IS 300,000 AND EXPECTED BY MR. WHITLAM TO RISE TO 400,000.

IN MAY LAST YEAR MR. WHITLAM CLAIMED: "OUR POLICIES AGAINST INFLATION HAVE SUCCEEDED".

WHAT IS THE TRUTH ABOUT INFLATION. SINCE THAT STATEMENT BY MR. WHITLAM INFLATION IN AUSTRALIA HAS BEEN RUNNING AT RATES ABOVE 15%.

DURING THE DECEMBER QUARTER OF THIS YEAR IT IS OFFICIALLY PREDICTED THAT INFLATION WILL BE ABOUT 5% - ONE OF THE HIGHEST IN THE WESTERN WORLD.

IN AUGUST LAST YEAR MR. WHITLAM SAID: "WE WILL CERTAINLY NOT PERMIT ANY GENERAL DOWNTURN IN THE BUILDING INDUSTRY".

THE REALITY IS THAT THE BUILDING INDUSTRY IS IN ITS MOST DEPRESSED STATE FOR YEARS MARKED BY BANKRUPTCY AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

ALSO IN THE SAME MONTH MR. WHITLAM SAID: "OUR WAR ON INFLATION IS BEING WON".

PRICES HAVE RISEN BY 20% SINCE HE MADE THAT CLAIM.

IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR HE FORECAST THAT AUSTRALIA WOULD TURN THE CORNER BY THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR.

WHERE ARE THE SIGNS OF THAT RECOVERY WHEN THE PROSPECT IS 400,000 OUT OF WORK IN THE NEW YEAR.

IN APRIL THIS YEAR HE SAID: "WE ARE NOW BEGINNING TO SEE THE UPTURN WHICH WE HAVE SOUGHT SO ERNESTLY"?

THE REALITY IS DEPRESSED INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, STAGNANT RETAIL SALES AND DECLINING MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS.

WHO CAN NOW BELIEVE MR. WHITLAM WHEN HE SPEAKS OF RECOVERY.

HE WILL NOT BE BELIEVED BY THE THOUSANDS OF SCHOOL LEAVERS THIS YEAR WHO WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FIND WORK.

HE WILL NOT BE BELIEVED BY THE THOUSANDS OF UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE GRADUATES WHO WILL NOT BE ABLE TO USE THEIR SKILLS OR BY THE HUNDREDS OF SMALL BUSINESSES WHICH ARE GOING BANKRUPT.

MR. WHITLAM'S ADMINISTRATION IS CONDEMNED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND WHICH IN JULY SAID THE ORIGINS OF THE AUSTRALIAN RECESSION WERE TO BE FOUND IN DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS.

THE SAME MONTH THE ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT SAID THAT DOMESTIC FACTORS WERE PREPONDERANT IN THE AUSTRALIAN RECESSION.

STILL MR. WHITLAM CLAIMS HIS BUDGET POLICY IS WORKING.

WE HAVE HAD THREE YEARS OF MR. WHITLAM. THEY HAVE BEEN THREE YEARS OF DARKNESS, IT IS TIME TO TURN ON THE LIGHT.

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