



NOVEMBER 23, 1975

75/19

FOR PRESS

PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

EXTRACT FROM AN ADDRESS AT PENSHURST, WANNON

LABOR HAS BEEN LED BY A MAN WHO ADMITS HE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE ECONOMY. HE IS BORED BY THE ECONOMY. HE GIVES US ASSURANCES THAT THERE IS AN UPTURN IN SIGHT. FOR MR WHITLAM THERE IS ALWAYS AN UPTURN IN SIGHT. THERE IS ALWAYS A RECOVERY AROUND THE CORNER BUT EACH TIME THERE IS MORE UNEMPLOYMENT, MORE INFLATION AND A WORSENING OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY. MR WHITLAM HAS YET TO SAY HOW HE IS GOING TO PAY OFF THE \$6,500 MILLION IN DEBTS ACCUMULATED BY HIS GOVERNMENT OVER TWO AND HALF YEARS.

IS HE GOING TO PAY THESE DEBTS OFF BY INCREASED TAXES?
IS HE PROPOSING TO PAY THESE DEBTS OFF BY INCREASED INFLATION?
I CHALLENGE MR WHITLAM TO APOLOGISE TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN HURT BY HIS ADMINISTRATION OVER TWO AND HALF YEARS. HE HAS HURT THE ELDERLY AND THE RETIRED WHOSE SAVINGS ARE NO LONGER SUFFICIENT TO SUPPORT THEM IN DIGNITY.

FARMERS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. SCHOOL LEAVERS WILL BEGIN THEIR WORKING LIFE ON THE DOLE AND THERE ARE 230,000 OF THEM THIS YEAR. THE FAMILY MAN IS PAYING THE HIGHEST TAXES IN AUSTRALIA'S HISTORY AND YOUNG COUPLES UNABLE TO AFFORD A HOME OF THEIR OWN BECAUSE THE COST HAS BECOME SO HIGH UNDER LABOR.

I CHALLENGE MR WHITLAM TO TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT THE ECONOMY. HOW WILL HE SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS THAT HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY THE POLICIES OF HIS ADMINISTRATION.

HOW WILL HE OVERCOME UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE FAILURE OF SMALL
BUSINESSES.

THE TRUTH IS AND MR WHITLAM WILL NOT ADMIT THIS THAT HE WANTS
EVERYONE TO BE DEPENDENT ON THE GOVERNMENT FOR WHAT IT WILL
PROVIDE. THAT IS THE SORT OF TOTALITARIAN AND AUTHORITARIAN
SYSTEM THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE ESTABLISHED IN AUSTRALIA.