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PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

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MR. WHITLAM'S POLICY STATEMENT

Mr. Whitlam's lunch time speech was a pathetic cry from a person who could not take the umpires verdict.

The Australian Constitution provides an umpire to protect the people of Australia in just the kind of emergency that Mr. Whitlam created.

Unlike the great majority of Australians Mr. Whitlam does not support the umpire. He cannot take the umpire's decision when it goes against him.

One of the great questions arising that will probably never be answered is whether Mr. Whitlam forced the umpire to act in this way knowing that he would have to or did Mr. Whitlam misjudge the character of Sir John Kerr, a man he himself had appointed to be the umpire. If it were the former, what Mr. Whitlam has done is a deliberate act to destroy our constitutional safeguards.

The action of the Governor General has now been endorsed by the Queen. This is precisely what I would have expected.

Mr. Whitlam wants total power for himself. He has said the states should legislate themselves out of existence. He has said he wants to smash the Senate.

He has made it plain he wants to destroy the office of the Governor General.

As every Liberal and National Country Party Leader around Australia has said, Mr. Whitlam has taken Australia a significant step along a road to establishing an Australian dictatorship.

His speech was the cry of a person who wants such a dictatorship, of a person who brushes aside Constitutional safeguards and the rights of the Australian people.

It started when he refused to face the people, when he refused to go for an election.

Why did he refuse to go to the people? Because he knew they would condemn him. Rather than face the people he would sooner destroy the Constitution.

If that is Mr. Whitlam's policy speech he will be condemned because there is no policy at all in it. There is no policy in it to deal with inflation or to deal with unemployment.

There is no policy to deal with the revival of business confidence which is necessary if Australia is going to work its way out of the present economic tragedy.

Mr. Whitlam's speech was the speech of a man who is bemused by his own self righteousness and tragically unable to see the harm he has done to Australia. It was the speech of a man unable to see that he is leading the Labor Party to destruction and annihilation.