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PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

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MR WHITLAM DODGES THE ISSUES

Mr Whitlam is attempting to ignore the basic bread and butter issues which affect the everyday lives of Australians.

He is behaving as if all the sins of his government never existed.

He is behaving like a man living in another world - certainly not in Australia.

Our policy will be devoted to the future - to the solution of Australia's problems.

It will spell out the hard work and effort that will be required by the incoming Liberal National Country Party Government to promote recovery and pay off the huge debts built up in three years of Labor rule.

Our policies will restore to Australia to responsibility, together with a sense of purpose and direction.

That is the great contrast between us.

We can make Australia one promise that Mr Whitlam can never match in a thousand years - a promise of honesty and responsibility in government.

So far, Mr Whitlam is attempting to campaign on the basis that rhetoric will hide essential facts from the people.

The facts are that it is Mr Whitlam himself who is guilty of threatening democracy through his attempt to govern without parliamentary approval.

It was Mr Whitlam who intended to take over the bank deposits of ordinary people and use them to pay the government's debts.

It was Mr Whitlam who defied the Parliament, which includes the Governor-General and the Senate.

He spoke of the Parliament as if it were only himself.

The record shows that Mr Whitlam's ultimate objectives included the elimination of the State Government and the abolition of the Senate.

Since last night it is also clear that he now wants a puppet Governor-General rather than a man who will honourably execute that office.

If these objectives are achieved by Mr Whitlam we will be well down the road not to democracy but to dictatorship.

There is no threat to democracy because the people are being given the opportunity to vote and to judge. His whole speech revolved around this non-issue.

He was accusing us of the sin that he himself committed.

What the people want to know and understand is how unemployment is to be overcome; how inflation will be brought under control, how school leavers can get jobs; how small businesses will survive; how investment will take off again, how new mining and oil search projects will be undertaken in partnership with Australians. Mr Whitlam ignored the young people who can no longer buy homes, he ignored the elderly and the retired who are being destroyed by inflation.

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