

FOR PRESS10 DECEMBER 1975

ON SATURDAY, AUSTRALIANS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DECIDE THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY - TO DETERMINE TO RESTORE PROSPERITY, DEFEAT INFLATION AND PROVIDE JOBS FOR ALL.

AUSTRALIA NEEDS AN IMMEDIATE CHANGE OF DIRECTION WE NEED TO ESTABLISH IMMEDIATELY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THREE YEARS SOUND AND HONEST MANAGEMENT OF AUSTRALIA'S AFFAIRS.

LABOR'S RECORD OF DISHONESTY AND INCOMPETENCE DURING THOSE THREE YEARS HAS BEEN MATCHED ONLY BY ITS RECORD OF SIMILAR DISHONESTY AND INCOMPETENCE IN THESE LAST THREE WEEKS OF ELECTION CAMPAIGNING.

ECONOMIC QUESTIONS - THE BASIC BREAD AND BUTTER ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THE EVERYDAY LIVES AND FUTURES OF ALL AUSTRALIANS HAVE RIGHTLY DOMINATED THIS ELECTION.

BUT MR. WHITLAM HAS NEVER ONCE ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO THESE REAL PROBLEMS. HE HAS NEVER SUGGESTED, LET ALONE PRESENTED IN A PROPER WAY, POLICIES THAT WOULD

- * OVERCOME UNEMPLOYMENT
- * MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO BUY THEIR OWN HOMES.
- * PREVENT THE SAVINGS OF OLD PEOPLE BEING DESTROYED BY INFLATION
- * OR WHICH WOULD SAVE SMALL BUSINESSES

MR. WHITLAM'S CAMPAIGN RECORD SHOWS HE IS LIVING IN THE PAST. HE IS READING ON THE RECORD OF A BUDGET WHICH WAS DISCOUNTED BY HIS OWN MINISTER FOR LABOR, WHO SAID IT WOULD CAUSE UNEMPLOYMENT TO 400,000 PEOPLE THIS SUMMER.

There has not been a constructive proposal to get Australian business moving so it can create new jobs, to help people. He has nothing positive to get investment going, or to solve the problems of the school leavers who will begin their working life on the dole.

Instead, there has been a campaign of scare tactics, fabricated and false statements, and advertisements and distortions of the truth by the Labor Party.

The frankness of Mr Whitlam's approach can be judged by the statements from Mr Hayden yesterday repudiating Labor's support for tax indexation. Mr Whitlam has been telling us of future tax reforms and tax benefits. Mr Hayden has finally come clean and admitted that Labor has no intention of reducing the tax burden.

On the contrary, Mr Hayden's approach would result in greatly increased taxation in the next Budget through the hidden effect of inflation and an increase in F.A.Y.E. receipts of more than 40%.

The positive choice on Saturday is the Liberal and National Country Party programme to restore prosperity which is constructive and forward-looking. They have been explained in my policy speech and at meetings around the nation. They are well understood and they meet the wishes and aspirations of Australians.

It is a comprehensive strategy to reward initiative and to encourage achievement - to realise once again the aspirations of all Australians for security, self-respect and for freedom to control our own lives.

A central feature is a fundamental overhaul of the system of personal and company taxation, through major reforms to be introduced in the 1976 Budget - the same reforms on which Mr Hayden has now repudiated both Mr Whitlam and the A.C.T.U. which supports tax indexation.

We will fully index personal income tax for inflation over three years. This reform, recommended by the expert Mathews Committee, will reduce the pressures for excessive wage demands. It will support wage indexation. It will make Government more honest with your money.

The public has the right to know when taxes are being raised. Tax indexation gives the public its only sure protection against the use of inflation as a silent tax. In this way, Labor has increased taxes by 143% in three years without having to pass a law through the Parliament.

Our policies of tax reform, and of a revived and strengthened Federalism, will halt this process and make Australia the most advanced federalist country in the world, where the wishes of people will prevail.

We offer competent management and an end to waste and extravagance in government.

We offer true independence in foreign affairs and defence, with Australia repairing its traditional alliances and friendships while maintaining its new relationships.

Above all, we will be striving to heal the wounds left by Labor's careless incompetence and misdirected policies.

We will work positively to cooperate with the trade union movement. We will reward initiative and encourage enterprise and achievement for the great strength and well-being of Australia is in the creative energies of the Australian people.

I am also confident that the good sense and judgement of the Electorate of Australia will ensure that, after Saturday, the Liberal and National Country Parties will be able to set about the task of reconstruction which, as a result of the maladministration of the past three years, now lies ahead.