



**PRIME MINISTER**

FOR PRESS

24 NOVEMBER 1977

ADDRESS AT LUNCHTIME RALLY, BRISBANE

In this election the people of Queensland will be making fundamental decisions about Australia's future - the future our families and children will live in. The thing that is at stake on December 10 is not just a choice between political parties. It is an election to decide about the country we want to live in. The choice on December 10 is clear. Do you want to build on the hard won achievements of the past two years? Or do you want to let Labor throw it all away? Do you want the growth and development that only the Liberal/National Country Party coalition can bring? Or do you want the stagnation that Labor once again will create? Do you want the extreme unionists to be controlled? Do you want responsible unionists to be given a fair go? Or do you want to surrender to the extremists?

This election is your chance to say whether you want your government to further reduce inflation, to create jobs that people can keep? Whether you want to risk Labor's experiments that rocketed inflation to 19 percent, that increased unemployment by 157 percent, by 190,000 people in one year? Your chance to say whether you want to protect initiative and enterprise? Or whether you want to allow Labor to start its giant tax rip-off again?

These are the real issues in this election - but there is another fundamental question we must answer. Are we going to have a debate on the policies and programmes that affect Australia? Or are we going to let Labor get away with putting Australia's politics into the gutter?

That's what they've been trying to do - fight a campaign by smear and innuendo; fight a campaign by playing the man; Labor are fighting the dirtiest campaign I have ever witnessed in my 22 years in Parliament.

Labor searched Australia to find a Parliament that was still in session and a Parliamentarian that was willing to abuse the privileges of Parliament. The Labor Party that so gravely damaged Australia when they were in government with their scandals, their irresponsible their incompetence are now trying to fight an election by smear.

Are we going to let them get away with it? They are fighting this election the same way they fought the 1975 election. Then, they had no policies. They talked about democracy being under threat - and they tried to fight the election in unleashing their thugs against the Governor General.

This time they're trying to hide their destructive and irresponsible policies by stooping to the gutter. The Leader of the Opposition - the man who tried to borrow money from a foreign government to run his election campaign; the man who tried to rule without supply; the man who is the only Australian Prime Minister ever to be dismissed, is now talking about integrity. What a shameful shabby charade.

Ladies and gentlemen, let's be perfectly clear about this. the Government that I lead will not have a bar of these gutter tactics. We will not wear it and neither will the Australian people.

The reason Labor has to resort to these tactics is because they have no constructive policies. Their economic policy is in total confusion. All Labor offers is a return to the old extravagances of 1972-75, the imposition of an additional \$1900 million of taxes on Australians, and an expensive and ineffective job subsidy scheme. The Australian people will reject this confusion masquerading as a policy. They will reject Labor's approach to industrial relations.

In his 45 minute policy speech, Mr Whitlam did not have one constructive word to propose about the trade unions - the left wing union leaders wouldn't allow it. The left wing unions pay money to the Labor Party. They have a large voice in determining official ALP policy. That's why it is Labor's official policy to put unions above the law. That's why Labor endorsed the Victorian power strike. They endorsed a strike which laid off 450,000 people for weeks, they endorsed a strike which threw 36,000 people completely out of a job.

Labor's policy of letting the trade unions have their head resulted in a record period of strikes and industrial lawlessness when they were in office. We have shown that a government prepared to take a firm and fair stand can protect the public. We have shown this in the air controller strike, in the postal workers dispute, in the case of the ACTU's uranium moratorium - they backed down. And in the Victorian power dispute, it was our move to deregister the unions involved that led to the strikers returning to work.

Unlike the Labor Party we have taken the view that no one can be above the law. That individual unionists have a right to be heard, and to be protected from intimidation; that it is the responsibility of the Government to protect the interests of the whole community.

We have passed laws protecting individual unionists, and give responsible rank and file unionists the chance to make their voices heard. Secret postal ballots for union elections are now compulsory. There is a four year ceiling on the term of office of union officials. We have set up the Industrial Relations Bureau to protect the public interest and also to act as an industrial ombudsman. Unions are now required to tell their members how union dues are spent. We are protecting individuals against being forced to join unions against their will. Damaging secondary boycotts have been banned.

Responsible unionists have welcomed these laws. Only the extremists and the Labor Party have fought against them.

These laws are a major step forward in the trade union area. These policies are now in effect and in time will have a major impact on trade union life in Australia.

Mr Whitlam has no constructive policy whatsoever to offer in this area. Labor would back down on these vital laws. A vote for the Government in this election is a vote for firm, fair and constructive trade union policies.

Mr Whitlam's policy speech fails to deal at all with vital questions of foreign policy and defence. Labor has no defence policy - at the ALP's Conference last June, all Mr Whitlam could lamely say was:

"There is no report on defence matters because no agenda items were received".

Yet Mr Whitlam asks Australians to place their defence in his hands. He cares so much about defence that he wanted Mr Hayden to do the job in his spare time after looking after foreign affairs. He was not game to mention the vital Pine Gap agreement in his policy speech for fear of antagonising the extreme left-wing. Yesterday he said he did support the 10 year extension of the Pine Gap agreement - but is that official Labor policy?

Let's hear from the Deputy Leader, Mr Uren, on whether he agrees with his leader on this vital issue. And what does Labor think about our internal security? The Royal Commission on Security and Intelligence reported that there exists serious threats to Australia from subversion and espionage. Let me quote the Commissioner's words - the words of an eminent judge appointed by Mr Whitlam:

"The two main communist parties, the Communist Party of Australia and the Socialist Party of Australia, have strong influence in some unions".

"They exercise a power greatly in excess of that which their numbers would justify".

"At ... times they make use of industrial disputes for their own political purposes".

We have accepted the Royal Commission's recommendations - and will bring in more legislation to strengthen ASIO. Mr Hawke has attacked the report - he could not resist the pressure to do so from the very unions to which Mr Justice Hope refers. Mr Whitlam remains ominously silent - hoping none will notice his embarrassment, his dilemma. Yet Labor asks Australians to place their security in their hands.

4.

The choice in this election is clear. A vote for the Liberal Party is a vote for prosperity through growth and development of Queensland, of Australia.

A vote for the Labor Party is a vote for growth of big government - but of stagnation and recession for Queensland and Australia.

We are on the point of breakthrough to real economic recovery. Let's not allow Labor to throw it away. With your support, this Government will continue doing the job.

---