



PRIME MINISTER

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ESSENDON RALLY

In just three days, the men and women of Australia will make a decision about our great country's destiny. The alternatives are clear. Will you reject Labor's policies of futility and fear. Will you choose our policies of growth and confidence - our policies of success. Our country is poised to move into the 80s and beyond with new hope, new spirit and a new sense of security. We are now a nation of many cultures, many rich traditions - a nation to which people from all over the world have contributed. We face the future with a new sense of purpose, of rekindled pride.

The first stage of the job this Government was elected to do is complete. We are now ready to move into a new era of prosperity and development. Our achievements have matched our promises. We promised to reduce Labor's inflation. Inflation is down to 9%, and it is falling.

We promised to control Government spending. We have already halved Labor's \$4,500 million deficit. We promised to revive incentive, restore fair reward for achievement. We have substantially cut every Australian's taxes. It is now worth working overtime again.

We promised to get Australia moving again. Industry is investing again. Our natural resources are being developed again, and there is new confidence in our manufacturing industry. \$6,000 million worth of firmly committed projects are under way or ready to go. Many billions of dollars more are in the pipeline.

Under a Liberal Government, Australia's vast potential will be realised. We alone have the policies which will keep our country growing. Policies which are successful, which will create new jobs.

We will reduce inflation to between six and eight per cent by next June. We will keep industry investing. We will keep interest rates falling. Over the next twelve months they will fall by up to two per cent. That will save the average young couple buying a new home \$520 a year, \$10 a week.

We have got the real answer to unemployment. Investment - that means jobs; getting interest rates down - that means jobs; restraining Government expenditure - that means jobs.

/Because

Because we have held back Government spending, we have been able to cut taxes for every Australian. We have already stopped Labor's tax ripoff by indexing taxes, and in just seven weeks our new tax cuts start. Because we have reduced inflation, these tax cuts will create more jobs. Because people can spend more, our factories will have to produce more. There will be a demand for more employees. We have set up training and job assistance schemes which have already helped more than 120,000 people. No-one eligible for any of these schemes will be turned away. We will expand the very successful education programme for unemployed youth, and extend the coverage of the NEAT scheme.

We will spend \$50 million over and above existing commitments to overhaul outmoded inner-city technical colleges. We are tackling the problem of improving and adapting the education of our children to meet more closely the requirements of the Australian job market.

The Williams Inquiry has been appointed to examine this fundamental issue. We will act swiftly and decisively when the report is received.

our strategy to create jobs is working. Total employment has risen by 180,000 since we came to office, and from next February unemployment will start to fall and keep on falling. We are determined to encourage Australian industry's new found vitality.

Our predecessors favoured buying cheap foreign products. This Government buys Australian.

We will give export sales fresh impetus with a new five-year export incentive scheme. We will provide special help to Australian businesses competing for overseas projects. We will actively promote more processing in Australia of our basic raw materials. We will make finance more readily available to small businessmen.

Unlike the Opposition, we are giving Australian industry, Australian jobs and Australian workers, the protection they need. We have increased protection for industries employing over a quarter of a million Australian men and women. Our swift and effective action has meant the survival of the apparel, textile and footwear industries, which employ 120,000 people.

Last week, the Labor Party refused to support our action. They turned their backs on 120,000 working Australians, 80% of whom are women, and many of whom are migrants. It is Labor that is the Party of unemployment.

Mr. Whitlam made unemployment a deliberate, calculated part of Government policy. It was Mr. Whitlam who, when he was Prime Minister, despite the warnings of a top level report, made his notorious, indiscriminate 25% across the board tariff cut - a cut which put tens of thousands of Australians out of work.

/In May 1974

In May 1974, there were almost 1.4 million Australians employed in manufacturing. By May 1975, just over one year later, that number had dropped by over 100,000.

Now Mr. Whitlam wants to do it again.

The Executive Director of the Apparel Manufacturers has said "No industry could be certain of survival if a Labor Party ... came to power"

And he's right.

Labor's tariff policy would cause massive unemployment. Its commitment to higher taxes would reduce demand and create further unemployment. Labor wants a 'crash' spending programme involving \$800 million in six months. That is an annual rate of \$1,600 million a year.

And Labor has made other promises worth billions of dollars and many more they have not costed. All this would more than double the deficit, unleash inflation once again, and increase interest rates. This could only have one result - more unemployment.

This is not just guess work. We know from bitter experience what Labor would do.

For the ten years before Labor last came to office, average unemployment was 1.3%. In three years, Labor increased unemployment to 5.4% of the workforce. In one year Labor increased unemployment by 157% - by almost 200,000 people.

Labor has said it would repeal our 1st February tax cuts that are already law.

/People

People earning between \$10,000 and \$16,000 a year will pay a marginal rate of tax of only 32 cents in the dollar. Under the Hayden scales it was 45 cents. That means it will now be worth working overtime again. These tax cuts are a significant social reform. A quarter of a million low income earners, tens of thousands of pensioners, widows, and students, with taxable incomes under \$3,750 a year, will no longer pay any tax at all.

These are the people Labor forgot. To pay for abolition, Labor would have to grab \$850 million this year and \$1,900 million next year out of the hands of the working men and women of Australia. Labor would pay these vast amounts to big and profitable companies. No jobs would be created. The companies have said so.

The working men and women of Australia will not vote for a party with that policy. Mr Whitlam's Labor Party no longer represents the working men and women of Australia - and he knows it.

Labor knows its support is eroding, that's why it has mounted a campaign of fear in this last week of the election campaign. The Labor Party is desperately trying to frighten Australians out of thinking about the issues, by talking about division and confrontation by talking about suicide and crime increasing; by showing a disgraceful advertisement on the uranium question which shows a photograph of an infant playing with a hand grenade.

I am certain this will offend all Australians.

Australians are coming to know the hypocrisy of Labor's uranium policy. The fact that Mr Whitlam signed an agreement to mine and export uranium when he was in power. Australians are coming to know the hypocrisy of Mr Dunstan the man the Labor Party has put on television to oppose uranium development. They're learning that Mr Dunstan has secretly granted exploration rights for uranium on an Aboriginal sacred and historic area. That he has encouraged the mining and stockpiling of uranium at the Roxby Downs mine; and that he had licensed a foreign company to explore for uranium just 30 kms. south and north of Adelaide. You have probably seen Labor's commercial which shows Mr Dunstan digging in the garden and talking against uranium. On his recent record, I bet I know what he is digging for ... (uranium) ... He's probably got a uranium exploration licence for half of Adelaide.

Ladies and gentlemen, in every area, the Government has laid firm foundations for national recovery. We have established a good framework for industrial relations. We have shown that a Government prepared to take a firm and fair stand can protect the community. Unlike Labor, we believe that no one should be above the law. Individual unionists have a right to be heard - and a right to have a say in how their union is run. It is the responsibility of Government to protect the entire community.

Our record matches our promise: secret postal ballots for union elections are now compulsory; the Industrial Relations Bureau is now operating; unions must now tell their members how their

dues are spent; individuals no longer have to join unions against their will. These are fair and firm laws - they are supported by responsible unionists. Given a chance, Labor would repeal each one of these laws as soon as it could because it is the Labor Party's official policy to put unions above the law.

We will not back away from these laws. The Government has also made fundamental reforms in social welfare.

We have helped 300,000 poor families with 800,000 children through our family allowances. Because of our legislation, pensions are now increased automatically to keep up with inflation.

We know our ethnic communities have made a great contribution to Australia. Australia is proud to offer people from around the world the opportunity to build an independent life for themselves and their families.

In the next three years we will concentrate on overcoming the language barriers in our society - both by expanding the teaching of English and the teaching in our schools of ethnic languages and cultures. Government departments will have ethnic liaison officers. We will provide more interpreters, translators more migrant resources centres. The Government has decided that the age service pension, should, and will be, paid to non-British members of the allied forces. We have put ethnic broadcasting on a secure long term basis. We will establish ethnic television.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Government offers Australia a return to prosperity, a higher standard of living and continuing policies which have provided Australians with new hope. We will press ahead with our programmes which are now so clearly succeeding.

In the next few years, Australia can fulfill our great promise. Through a sense of national unity of purpose, a determination by all Australians that we shall succeed, we can build a better life for everyone.

As a concerned and caring community we can provide effective help to those disadvantaged and in need, and give them dignity and hope. As a people conscious of our responsibilities to other nations around the world we can play a leading role in developing a safer world - a less selfish world, a world that learns to use its natural resources as a force for good and not for evil. We can do all this, it is now within our grasp.

I have no doubt that the Australian people are ready and willing to play their part. My commitment to you tonight is that this Government - this Liberal/National Country Party Government - will lead Australia to this better future.
