

INTERVIEW WITH PETER HARVEY ON CENSURE MOTION IN PARLIAMENT

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QUESTION: Prime Minister, the sort of censure motion that was moved on you yesterday by Mr Hayden. How do you reply to that sort of criticism?

PRIME MINISTER: I think the criticism really answers itself. It shows the concerns of the Opposition - they've asked a very large number of questions over the course of this Parliament about issues that I believe had been passed and done with, not in the mainstream of concerns of the Australian nation and of the Australian people. I think this is why they have been put aside by the Australian people, and I think it's why they have lost enormous support amongst the working men and women of Australia. When I first came to this Parliament and that's beginning to be, in spite of my age, quite a long while ago, there were a large number of trade union officials in the Parliament. People had been through the ranks, through the trade unions, worked on the shop floor. Many of them had known what it was like in the 1930's and the difficulties of those times, and they were men that I have a very great respect for. But the Australian Labor Party today is a different party, it doesn't really identify with that kind of person, the person that's come up through the ranks of the trade union. Clyde Cameron might always be one of the last of the old guard in that sense, and as we know he's not on the front ranks. Australia's working men and women certainly need a voice in this Parliament, and I believe that voice now comes through the Liberal Party.

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