

INTERVIEW WITH 4IP, BRISBANE

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(QUESTIONS NOT AUDIBLE ON TAPE - ANSWERS ONLY)

Question

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Prime Minister

A typical Canberra late winter cold morning.

Question

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Prime Minister

I thought I might have been late for your show.

Question

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Prime Minister

Well, it obviously makes it much more convenient because you can use it as an office and get a lot of work done. The main reason for it of course is security, and there is no way you can get around that. The captain of the aircraft said that defence didn't know what to do when I had the aircraft because they've got so used to using them and the other one was being serviced and for the two weeks they were without a 707 and finding it inconvenient for defence itself because they are using them so much on defence purposes.

Question

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Prime Minister

Modern international terrorists - they are totally mad in my view. They are totally indiscriminate in their killing. They want publicity. They don't care what they do. They have no concern for human life or human decency. They are almost a contradiction of mankind itself. The IRA, and some elements of the IRA, have got to be at the very forefront of international terrorism and everything that is bad about it. It obviously poses a very real threat to people. We've had aircraft hijacked. We've had terrorist incidents in many places around the world. It's a great worry to all authorities, to all governments, who've got the responsibility of trying to combat this sort of thing. Australia so far has been relatively fortunate. We had the bomb incident at the Hilton. But you never know. The good old statement "it can never happen here". You just can't rely on that anymore. You've got to take the most stringent precautions.

Question

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Prime Minister

Next year there will be a double anniversary - I will be 50 and 25 years in politics.

Question

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Prime Minister

I think we overlapped for a bit. Oxford is a large place and we didn't really meet up.

Question

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Prime Minister

At a personal level, fine. It just depends if he is wearing a political hat at the time.

Question

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Prime Minister

I don't think I would want to come back as somebody else. You sometimes wonder -- I was 23 when I first got pre-selected and I thought being a politician in a rural electorate would fit in very nicely with being a farmer. I very soon learnt that being a politician, even a private Member, was much more than a full time job. I think it sometimes might be a good thing that aspiring Members of Parliament don't know what is in store for them after they become a Member. If they did, they would probably never take that first step.

Question

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Prime Minister

I would never advise people not to. I might say don't expect too much, you might want to change the world or want to make it a better place. There will be many frustrations, many difficulties. A lot of criticism that you will inevitably think that is to a degree unjust, but if you believe in things it is worth fighting for. I think, go ahead, because if people won't try and press for the things they do believe in, trying to make, as they see it, Australia a better place, well then the political life of the country is going to be very poor. So I will try and encourage people but I would try and do it realistically. You can't change the world overnight. It is a slow process. You've got to

Prime Minister (continued)

persuade other people to share your same beliefs, your same hopes and aspirations. It sometimes takes years to achieve a particular objective. But then if it is a worthwhile objective the fight has been worthwhile.

Question

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Prime Minister

Thank you.

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