



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

WEDNESDAY, 10 MARCH 1982

### SPEECH AT OPENING OF VICTORIAN ELECTION CAMPAIGN

This is a great night. We all like to be associated with success, and I can feel success around me tonight. This is going to be a great Liberal election campaign. A campaign which will bring victory to the Liberal Party and continued good government to this great State.

We all know that campaigns can be a mask for the reality which lies behind. They can conceal the real political intent with a screen that is all gloss, all facade. How many campaigns like that have we seen from Labor throughout this nation and on the occasions when Labor has had the opportunity to show its real measure. How the facade has crumbled.

Australians have been the losers and we would be far worse losers under Labor in the world of today. The Liberal campaign which Lindsay Thompson will launch tonight will be a great one. It will be built on strong foundations, by good builders, who have a record of achievement.

It is a campaign built on the foundations of Liberal philosophy. Victoria is the heartland of Liberalism. And it is the Liberal Party which allows the initiative of individual men and women to be the driving force of our society. Liberal Governments seek to allow full expression of that individual initiative. It is Liberal governments which promote the economic circumstances in which private enterprise can flourish, opportunities can be taken, and people's standards of living can rise.

Over the last three decades, living standards have virtually doubled in this country and this State. And it has all been Liberal achievement.

We believe in freedom, opportunity, and security. We want a strong, secure society, firmly based upon the family; a society in which the family is supported and the needy and disadvantaged are cared for, according to their needs and circumstances. These are our values and they are the values of the vast majority of Australians. The vast majority of Victorians.

How different are the socialist left values that Labor would impose on this state. Labor in Victoria today is further away from the needs and aspirations of the people of this State than it has ever been. Liberal governments have built Victoria up. Victorians have long been able to take for granted the kind of development that is now happening in other States. And we must not let those achievements be thrown away.

For decades, Victoria has been a great productive centre for the whole of Australia as a result of the free-enterprise policies of liberalism.

Victorians enjoy the highest average household income of any State, and the highest rate of home ownership. This is the real test. How absurd to say Victoria is behind. Where Liberal governments take Australia ahead we all know the chaos of Labor in office. In Canberra they failed. In Tasmania they have failed. In S.A. they failed. In N.S.W. they have not met the problems of the day.

They cannot manage an economy and they cannot cope with unions or strikes. We know Mr Wran has been good at public relations but now the tinsel is coming off. And if it wasn't for power coming out of Victoria NSW industry and homes would already be on short terms. This is a vital election for Victoria. The Government which holds power in this State has an enormous impact on people's lives.

As Sir Henry Bolte used to say, "You get up in the morning, turn on switch on the light, send the kids to school, go along the roads to work...the States are responsible for all this and more".

He was right. The powers of the Government in this State are vastly important for the well-being of Victoria's families. We want Lindsay Thompson to be premier in this State standing free, proud and independent. We don't want Cain dominated by the socialist left as members of his own party have said. We want a man who can govern in the interests of all Victorians. We want Lindsay Thompson. We want a Liberal government.