



**PRIME MINISTER**

FOR MEDIA

SUNDAY, 27 JUNE 1982

CAIN GOVERNMENT TACTICS - A NEW POLITICAL LOW

The Cain Labor Government's threat to discriminate against the people of three Federal Minister's electorates by reducing their health services is a new political low in Australia. Never before have the people of an electorate had their lives and well-being directly threatened in this way. It is a form of political gangsterism which Australians will not stand for.

Compared with its base tax-sharing grant last year, Victoria got a 16.8% increase this year. How much is enough for Mr Cain? The Cain Labor Government is also the beneficiary of an extra \$55 million of untied grants and borrowing authorities negotiated last year by the previous Liberal Government. These are funds available to Victoria alone, but Mr Cain has not mentioned them.

The kind of threats now coming from the Victorian Government against people in particular electorates are not good enough for the conduct of relations between the States and the Commonwealth. We all know that these are the tactics of the Socialist Left. We all know that these are the tactics of the B.L.F. We all know that this is why the B.L.F. has earned the antagonism of nearly every citizen in this State. Mr Cain is in effect threatening to penalize the people of particular electorates if the Members representing those electorates don't do exactly what Mr Cain wants. He won't get away with it. The people of Victoria will rebel at the first opportunity.

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