



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

TUESDAY, 6 JULY 1982

THE AUSTRALIAN FLAG

Why does the Labor Party want to cause divisiveness in Australia by seeking to change the Australian Flag? Labor is now committed to getting rid of our Flag.

The Australian Flag was chosen by Australians for Australia.

Many thousands of men and women have fought and died under it.

Our Flag stands for the free way of life that Australians cherish.

It is a symbol of liberty to refugees and oppressed people from around the world.

• Both main Political Parties have chosen it for their emblem.

It is a symbol of national unity. In trying to change the Flag the ALP is again seeking to divide the nation because there are countless Australians with a passionate belief in the Flag. Why does Labor have no pride in our Flag?

What sort of political party is it that cynically drapes the flag around its conference while it commits a Labor Government to dumping the same Flag?

We should look forward to the Bicentenary in 1988 as a year which marks our desire to work together as one people, a year to celebrate our achievements as a nation. It should not be a year marked with the divisiveness that the Labor Party is now promoting.

If the ALP thinks that the Flag is inadequate - perhaps that is a reflection of their own sense of inferiority.