



## PRIME MINISTER

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### LABOR'S POLICIES ARE FALLING APART

This week, the election campaign has focused on the real issues. And Labor's policies have not stood up to the test.

Labor's policies are falling apart. The rash of contradictions in recent days show what a fraud those policies really are. Their prices and incomes policy is supposed to be a strategy to fight inflation and industrial relations problems. Events in the last few days have shown not only the policy is contradictory, but that it is a total fraud. Mr Crean, a Vice President of the ACTU has revealed that Labor and the unions have done a secret deal which, if Labor were to win tomorrow, would give the oil workers an 8 per cent pay rise. That pay rise would be a pacesetter for wage increases everywhere. Once more we would have a wage explosion.

So the policy is not a policy to fight inflation and to improve industrial relations to the benefit of all Australians. It is a guarantee to the unions that they can grab what they want. The contradictions in Labor's policies can be seen everywhere. Mr Keating, last Thursday, claimed that "we have not advocated price control at all". That statement is totally misleading. It contradicts the prices and incomes policy which says Labor would set up a pricing authority.

Mr Hawke claims to be a man of reconciliation. When his policies were criticised by the Confederation of Australian Industry, the body representing a large number of employers in key industries, Mr Hawke abused the organisation by calling them a "... destabilising organisation...". How can Mr Hawke claim to be bringing Australians together when he is so ready to launch a broadside against the major employers organisation. The list goes on. Labor argues passionately for Australian ownership of its own resources. When BHP announced its takeover of the American Company Utah International, Senator Walsh said "The Labor Party welcomes BHP's plans to takeover Utah International". That seemed to be in line with Labor's policy. Yet on Wednesday, Mr Barry Jones described that takeover as "... absolutely scandalous ...". That contradiction is incomprehensible and irrational.

The contradictions in Labor's policies give Australians a plain message. Labor offers Australians nothing at a time when prudent and responsible policies are critical.