



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

FRIDAY, 4 MARCH 1983

INTEREST RATES

Labor's interest rate advertisement today is totally dishonest.

Our policies have enabled interest rates for home owners, home buyers and small businesses to fall over the past four or five months. In our last budget we gave significant help to young home buyers and to home owners through our Home Loan Interest Rebate Scheme. As a result of Government policies, an extra \$1,200 million has been directed into the housing industry.

Those facts are irrefutable.

What Labor's advertisement doesn't point out is that interest rates for home loans and on overdrafts for small business are regulated.

They are regulated because of our concern for the position of home buyers and small businesses.

I say in categorical and absolute terms because of our continuing concern those interest rates are not going to be deregulated.

It is Labor's policies that will mean much higher interest for home owners and small businessmen - not our policies.

It is Labor's commitment to spend an additional \$4,000 million that will assuredly push interest rates up several percentage points.

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